



US Secretary of State John Kerry gestures at a press conference during the Syrian peace talks in Montreux, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the meeting saying that the peace talks will face “formidable” challenges for Syria. Ban called on the Syrian government and the opposition trying to overthrow it to negotiate in good faith.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Syria Meet Opens with Acrimony, Testy Exchanges

MONTREUX, Switzerland

- Friction and acrimony broke out almost immediately Wednesday with the start of a long-delayed peace conference on Syria, punctuated by a testy exchange between the Syrian foreign minister and

the leader of the UN, casting doubt on the prospects for easing hostilities or even opening up aid corridors to help besieged civilians. The conference of delegates representing 30 countries in the lakeside Swiss city of Montreux, al-

ready troubled by last-minute diplomatic stumbles, was described by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry as a test for the international community. But the meeting had barely begun when the atmosphere grew even more charged

over divisions between the United States and Russia and especially among the Syrians themselves. The Syrian foreign minister, Walid al-Moallem, who led his country's delegation, was openly defiant, calling Syrian insurgents evil and

ignoring appeals by Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. secretary-general, to avoid invective or even yield the floor as a bell rang signaling that he had exceeded the allotted time for his remarks.

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PUSH FOR CLEAN, GREENER ENERGY AT DAVOS MEET



OPPOSITION SETS 24-HOUR DEADLINE IN KIEV, UKRAINE

At Davos meet, push for clean energy as climate weapon

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— Leaders gathered in the Swiss ski resort of Davos are pushing for nations worldwide to shift to cleaner energy sources as the best way to contain global warming and re-energize the global economy.

U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres, reflecting the top billing that climate change has in Davos this year, said the world economy is at risk unless a binding deal is agreed in Paris in 2015 to lower heat-trapping carbon emissions from coal and oil.

"It is important that we get the treaty because the signal to the markets, the signal to the global economy, needs to be stronger than it is right now," she said in an Associated Press interview on Wednesday.

Nations emerged from climate talks in Poland in November with a vague road map on how to prepare for a global climate pact to stabilize warming at 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), a level countries hope will avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

Figueres says she sees "momentum growing toward this" as countries like China reduce coal use to clear

polluted skies and Indonesia plants more trees to protect water resources, seeing that it's in their national interest to develop

heat waves, droughts and diseases, raising the specter of more conflict and war, unless drastic action is taken to lower emissions

continue to grow, scientists say, but if the global temperature reaches about 3 degrees F warmer than now, it could lead to world-

mitigate and adapt to climate change is one of the top 10 risks facing the world in 2014. The Davos forum this year also emphasizes inequality by income, gender and access to resources.

South Korea's President Park Geun-hye said climate change is a problem that will take creativity to overcome.

"Climate change and environmental challenges are global in nature. As such the world must act as one in tackling them," she said.

Disputes between countries over who should bear the burden of cutting industrial emissions have long been a barrier to action, though many argue the benefits of cleaner energy outweigh the costs of conversion.

Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said he couldn't say whether his country would sign on to a treaty at this point. Developing economies can't be asked to shoulder most of the burden, he told reporters in Davos, and the enormous amount of financial support that rich industrialized nations promised in aid for adapting to a warmer world "is simply not forthcoming."

Al Gore was the headliner at a private session on how leaders can help prevent — and better communicate — catastrophic effects on public health, anti-poverty efforts, clean water and energy supplies from a rise in global temperatures above 4 degrees F.

"The climate conversation has to be won by those who are willing to speak up," he told them. "It is a race against time, but we are going to win."

The World Wildlife Fund, known as WWF, is among groups calling on governments to commit to action. "There's a rising recognition that we simply have to find a way to break through," Jim Leape, director general of Geneva-based WWF International, told AP. "The big governments each need to renew their commitment." □



From left, Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and CEO of Total, Christophe de Margerie, attend a session of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014. Leaders gathered in the Swiss ski resort of Davos have made it a top priority to push to reshape the global economy and cut global warming by shifting to cleaner energy sources.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

more sustainably.

Scientists say man-made climate change is likely to worsen starvation, poverty, lack of water, flooding,

of carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas from their current trajectories.

The global economy may

wide economic losses between 0.2 and 2.0 percent of income.

A World Economic Forum report says the failure to

Rare blue diamond found in South Africa



Image made available by Petra Diamonds of a 29.6 carat blue diamond which was recovered at the Cullinan Diamond Mine near Pretoria, South Africa. The stone is described as being of a vivid blue with extraordinary saturation, tone and clarity, and has the potential to yield a polished stone of great value and importance.

(AP Photo/Philip Mostert - Petra Diamonds)

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A mining company says it has found a rare blue diamond in South Africa.

Petra Diamonds says the 29.6-carat diamond came from the Cullinan mine, source of some of the world's most famous diamonds. Cullinan lies near Pretoria, the South African capital.

Petra Diamonds said in a statement Tuesday that the diamond is a vivid blue with extraordinary tone and clarity, and could yield a polished stone of great value.

The Cullinan mine yielded the 530-carat Star of Africa blue diamond that is part of the British crown jewels. □

Canadian group starts Keystone XL pipeline in Texas

RAMIT MASTI
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A Canadian company on Wednesday started delivering oil through the Texas portion of a proposed cross-border pipeline that has stirred controversy and tension between the United States and its northern neighbor. TransCanada began delivering oil from a hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, to customers in Nederland, Texas, early Wednesday, Alex Pourbaix, president of energy and oil pipelines, said at a news conference. The company expects to complete a smaller pipeline that will transport oil from Nederland to refineries near Houston later this year. The \$2.3 billion pipeline from Cushing to Texas is the Gulf Coast — or southern portion — of TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. This shorter leg will begin transporting on average about 300,000 barrels of oil daily and should end the year at an average of about 520,000 barrels, Pourbaix said. The longer Keystone XL, which would transport heavy tar sands crude from Canada and oil from North Dakota's Bakken shale, requires a permit from President Barack Obama because it crosses an international border. That \$5.4 billion segment has not yet been approved. Obama fast-tracked the shorter, southern portion of the pipeline with the hope of relieving a bottleneck in Oklahoma. The pipeline has been mired in controversy. Opponents and landowners argue that tar sands oil is heavier and dirtier than other forms of crude, meaning that any spill would be harder to clean up and that the refining process will be dirtier. TransCanada, determined to push ahead with the larger pipeline project, touted the thousands of jobs created by the construction of the Gulf Coast portion, and countered opponents' claims that the tar sands are dirty and could increase global greenhouse gas emissions — a concern Obama has also mentioned. □

Ukraine opposition sets 24-hour deadline

MARIA DANILOVA
YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian opposition leaders issued a stark ultimatum to President Viktor Yanukovich on Wednesday to call early elections within 24 hours or face more popular rage, after at least two protesters were killed in confrontations with police in a grim escalation of a two-monthlong political crisis. The protesters' deaths, the first since the largely peaceful protests started in November, fueled fears that the daily demonstrations aimed at bringing down the government over its decision to shun the European

Union for closer ties to Moscow and over human rights violations could turn more violent. With a central Kiev street ablaze and covered with thick black smoke from burning tires and several thousand protesters continuing to clash with riot police, opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk urged tens of thousands of demonstrators in a nearby square to refrain from violence and remain in the main protest camp for the next 24 hours. He demanded that Yanukovich dismiss the government, call early elections and scrap harsh anti-protest legislation. It was last week's passage of the laws cracking down on protests that set

off the violent clashes. "You, Mr. President, have the opportunity to resolve this issue. Early elections will change the situation without bloodshed and we will do everything to achieve that," Yatsenyuk told some 40,000 people who braved freezing temperatures on Kiev's Independence Square late Wednesday. If Yanukovich does not concede, he added, "Tomorrow we will go forward together. And if it's a bullet in the forehead, then it's a bullet in the forehead, but in an honest, fair and brave way." Yanukovich showed little willingness to compromise. A three-hour meeting with opposition leaders accom-

plished "nothing," said Oleh Tyahbnybok, who attended the session. Meanwhile, the government handed security forces extra powers, including closing off streets and firing water cannon against protesters despite the freezing temperatures. Police have already used water cannon but insisted it was only to put out fires. The government also deployed an armored personnel carrier at the site of the clashes. During Wednesday's confrontations, riot police violently beat and shot at protesters, volunteer medics and journalists. The Interior Ministry announced that 70 protesters had been arrested. □



A protester waves a Ukrainian national flag in front of police line in central Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

Report finds elite Chinese using offshore companies

ANDREW JACOBS
DAVID BARBOZA
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BEIJING — Members of the Chinese elite, including some of the country's most politically connected figures, have set up a large number of offshore companies that allow them to conceal billions of dollars abroad, according to a new report released Wednesday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, a Washington-based group that works with a number of news organizations

around the world. The report's authors say it is based on leaked documents concerning tens of thousands of tax-haven clients. The report names more than a dozen of China's wealthiest people, as well as relatives of top officials, including those of the country's leader, Xi Jinping; the former premier, Wen Jiabao; and the descendants of the ruling Communist Party's revolutionary founders. The report was released at an awkward time for

Xi, who has made cracking down on corruption and reining in officials' displays of wealth among his top priorities since taking charge of the Communist Party in 2012. The combination of wealth and power illustrated in the report could become a political liability for the government at a time when the Chinese public is increasingly concerned about official privilege. During a regular news briefing, a Foreign Ministry spokesman who was asked about the report dismissed

it as "hardly convincing," and suggested that those who leaked the documents had ulterior motives. Censors blocked access to the consortium's online report in much of China on Wednesday, and Chinese media made no mention of it. Offshore bank accounts, trusts and shell companies are not in and of themselves illegal, and individuals and companies who move wealth overseas are not necessarily seeking to launder money or avoid tax liability. □

US northeast, Canada dig out from snowstorm

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Northeast dug out Wednesday from a snowstorm that grounded flights, shuttered schools and left a bitter

cold in its wake, while a blizzard swept across parts of Atlantic Canada. The blizzard in Canada closed schools and government offices and dis-

rupted air travel throughout the region. Crews worked to clear roads in blinding conditions. The atmosphere was particularly frosty in New York,

where some residents complained that plowing was spotty and schools were open while children elsewhere in the region stayed home.

The storm stretched from Kentucky to New England but hit hardest along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston. As much as 14 inches (35 centimeters) of snow fell in Philadelphia, with New York City seeing almost as much, before tapering off. Facing one of the first flash-points of his weeks-old tenure, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio defended the response to a storm he said caused a worse-than-expected headache when it ramped up at rush hour. The mayor and city Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty said the cleanup effort was equitable and robust, though complicated by traffic and the storm's timetable. Those factors made it difficult

to plow and spread salt, Doherty said. The wind and snow were so blinding that police pulled traffic agents out of many intersections. While Boston got only about 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow, other parts of Massachusetts were socked with as many as 18 inches (46 centimeters). About 1,400 flights were canceled Wednesday into and out of some of the nation's busiest airports, including in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, according to according to Flightaware. That was down from about 3,000 flights the day before. The storm was a conventional one that developed off the coast and moved up the Eastern Seaboard, pulling in cold air from the Arctic. Unlike the epic freeze of two weeks ago, it was not caused by a kink in the polar vortex, the winds that circulate around the North Pole. □



Caifilyn Thomas 7, of Richmond, Va. is surrounded by flying snow after becoming airborne while sledding along 2nd Street in downtown Richmond on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014. Central Virginia experienced the first significant snowfall of the season with 2-4 inches of snow locally and single-digit temperatures in the early morning hours.

(AP Photo/ Richmond Times-Dispatch, Dean Hoffmeyer)

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CASINO AND SHOPS

US panel recommends ways to reduce voting delays



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden receive a report on voting reform from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, at the White House in Washington, Jan. 22, 2014. The group's recommendations included modernizing of the voter registration process, extending early voting periods and fixing new standards for polling places and voting machines. From left: Commission chair Robert Bauer, Biden, Obama, co-chair Benjamin L. Ginsberg. (Doug Mills/The New York Times)

JACKIE CALMES

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WASHINGTON - A bipartisan panel created by President Barack Obama after many voters waited hours to cast ballots in 2012 on Wednesday recommended ways to keep delays to no more than a half-hour. But changes are up to the states and 8,000 local juris-

dictions, where voting laws have been a partisan battleground since the 2000 presidential recount. After surveying local officials, the commission also warned of two potential crises: Voting machines purchased a decade ago, when federal funds were made available as a post-recount remedy, are break-

ing down or obsolete. And local schools, long a favored polling place and accessible to the disabled, increasingly are unavailable as more of them restrict entry in response to

shootings like the massacre in Newtown, Conn. Obama noted in his 2012 victory speech that some voters were still in line that night, even as he spoke, and then announced the 10-member commission a year ago in his State of the Union address. He received the report, six months in the making, at the White House from the panel's co-chairmen - Robert F. Bauer, a Democrat, and Benjamin L. Ginsberg, a Republican, the top lawyers for his own and Mitt Romney's 2012 campaigns. The panel also included executives, academics and state and local officials.

"Unlike a lot of countries, we've got a pretty complex system," Obama said Wednesday as the report was released. "We vote a lot. We have local jurisdictions that run these elections and it makes things

a little bit more complicated."

Calling the recommendations "outstanding," he said, "We intend to publicize this and to then reach out to stakeholders all across the country to make sure that we can implement this, in part because one of the troubling aspects of the work that they did was hearing from local officials indicating that we could have even more problems in the future if we don't act now."

Long waits have frustrated and turned away voters in numerous states in recent presidential elections, especially in Democratic-leaning cities and small-town college campuses. The commission concluded that they "result from a combination of mismanagement, limited or misallocated resources, and long ballots." □

Lew reminds Congress over late-February debt deadline

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew has told Congress that by late February he will run out of steps he can take to avoid a first-ever default on U.S. debt.

In a letter to congressional leaders Wednesday, Lew said he thinks he will exhaust the bookkeeping maneuvers he can make to avoid breaching the federal borrowing limit sooner than previously thought. He had estimated in December that he could avoid a default until late February or early March. Under an agreement that ended the partial government shutdown in October, Congress suspended the debt limit until Feb. 7. After that, Lew would start using the bookkeeping maneuvers.

He urged Congress to raise the limit before Feb. 7.

Lew said the bookkeeping

maneuvers won't last as long as they did in previous debt-ceiling battles because of the time of year the limit will be reached. In February, the government sends out large amounts of money because of tax refunds it owes taxpayers.

He said the maneuvers would probably clear only \$200 billion of borrowing room, less than the \$330 billion that the bookkeeping steps freed up in 2013, for example.

"The significantly smaller amount of headroom that can be freed up now will quickly be exhausted by the large obligations of the government that occur in the month of February," Lew wrote. Some Republicans hope to use the debt limit as leverage to force the Obama administration to agree to more government spending cuts. President Barack Obama has said he will not negotiate over the debt limit. □



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DNA confirms body parts belong to boy with autism

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK - First there was the disappearance: a 14-year-old boy with autism last seen walking out of his school by the Queens waterfront last fall. Then there were the months of

searching, the posters of a fresh-faced teenager that a city came to know simply as Avonte.

With the discovery last week of a body in pieces on the shoreline of the East River, and clothes that appeared to match those

last worn by the teenager, hopes dimmed that the boy, Avonte Oquendo, would turn up alive.

Those days of uncertainty ended Tuesday as the results of DNA testing confirmed what many had feared: Avonte would not

be coming home.

The city medical examiner's office said that the remains had been matched to DNA samples provided by several members of Avonte's family Friday, when the police began gathering pieces of a body and the telltale articles of clothing - a striped shirt, size 5 1/2 Air Jordan sneakers - worn by Avonte.

"Avonte's family searched, really searched," David H. Perecman, a lawyer for Avonte's relatives, said Tuesday.

"The people of the city of New York searched."

In the days and weeks after Avonte went missing Oct. 4, the Police Department fanned out, scouring the city by every available means: Divers searched in the waters of the East River; officers went around train stations; bloodhounds were put on possible scents. On the subways, riders saw posters of his face and heard announcements describing the teenager and urging anyone with

information to come forward.

The city's efforts were amplified by teams of volunteers mounting an aggressive effort to locate Avonte, who because of severe autism could not speak. They erected a makeshift command center in Queens.

Leads came in; none panned out.

A chance discovery, by a young woman who first told her mother before they phoned the police, began a grisly process of collecting pieces of a body.

That evening, officers cordoned off an area of the riverbank several miles northeast of Avonte's school.

It was not clear how his body came to rest there, the police said.

Over the next few days, they gathered a collection of bones, each of which would be tagged separately, placed in paper evidence bags and eventually tested to confirm its connection to Avonte. Some were as small as fragments, others as large as an arm or a leg. By Tuesday, the police said, investigators had collected what was believed to be about 90 percent of the boy's body.

As the police planned more searches Tuesday, the medical examiner's office gave grim finality to the hopes of a family and a city that had wondered for months what had happened to the boy on the posters. The medical examiner's office said a cause of death had yet to be determined.

Forensic experts said it was not common for bodies found in the water to be so severely dismembered. □



A New York Police Department canine unit continues the search for human remains along a rocky shoreline in the Queens borough of New York.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

NHTSA proposes child seat side-impact rule

CHERYL JENSEN

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Reacting to a directive from Congress, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Wednesday that it would propose changes to a federal vehicle safety standard that would require new child car seats to be safer in side-impact crashes.

The new rule would apply to car seats sold in the United States that are designed for children weighing up to 40 pounds. The current standard addresses only how well car seats must protect children in front crashes.

The announcement was made by David Friedman, acting administrator of the safety agency, at the SAE International Government/Industry Meeting at the Washington Auto Show.

"In the big picture, this is a great thing," said Jennifer Stockburger, director of operations at the Consumer Reports Auto Test Center, whose responsibilities include the child-restraints program.

As it stands now, parents have only marketing claims to go by, and a federal standard would give consumers more assurance that all car seats comply

with the same minimum level of performance, she said.

The agency estimates that the regulation will save five lives and prevent 64 injuries each year.

The proposed rule will be published in The Federal Register, and members of the public and manufacturers will be able to submit comments for 90 days. Then, the agency will consider whether to adopt the rule as-is or with changes. Under the proposed rule, car-seat manufacturers would have to show that child-safety seats can keep a child's head from hitting

the door when the car is struck in the side, and reduce the crash forces transmitted to the head and chest.

The tests would be conducted using a sled test designed to simulate a T-bone crash in which the front of a vehicle traveling 30 mph slams into the side of a small passenger vehicle traveling at 15 mph.

The tests would be conducted using an existing crash-test dummy that represents a 12-month-old child, as well as a side-impact dummy, still to be developed, that would represent a 3-year-old. □

US Financial Front:

Car leasing market picking up as economy improves

Susan Salisbury

© 2014 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. --

As the economy improves, the percentage of new cars that are leased instead of purchased has grown.

Kelley Blue Book places the low for leasing at 12.6 percent of new cars in 2009 compared to slightly above 23 percent in 2013. When times were tougher, people economized, with many keeping their old cars longer.

"The economy getting better is good for the auto industry across the board," said Scot Hall, executive vice president of Swapalease.com, based in Cincinnati. "There was pent-up demand for vehicles, and 2013 was a huge year for automotive sales."

In the U.S. sales of new vehicles reached 15.6 million in 2013, up 7.6 percent from 2012, automakers said.

While leasing is on the rebound, the fact is the majority of people purchase a car, either paying for it outright, or with long-term financing with monthly payments. Most experts agree that leasing ends up being more expensive than buying a new vehicle in the long run. Of course, buying a "newish" used car is usually even cheaper.

"Leasing is an alternative on the financing," Hall said. "It is a lower monthly payment for more car, and less money is due at signing."

About half of those who lease decide they want to terminate it early, which requires paying a penalty. Swapalease provides a way to get out of that lease. It's an online mar-

ketplace that matches people who want to get out of vehicle leases with people who want to get into a lease.

For car buffs who want to drive a new car more often and perhaps have a car that is more expensive than what they could afford if they purchased it, leasing might make sense. Businesses like the tax advantages of leasing.

Having a car with the latest technology such as a voice-activated navigation system, back-up cameras and parking assist sonar is one of the main drivers for those deciding to get a new car, Hall said.

Hall said he expects lease deals from manufacturers to be attractive this year, especially in the luxury car sector. Mercedes and BMW are leasing 60 to 70 percent of their new cars, Hall said. People who can afford those cars often prefer to lease because they won't be tying up \$75,000 they could invest in stocks or something else.

But even with mainstream vehicles, lease deals are expected to be good because the brands want to maintain their market share, Hall said.

"A great way to do that is to lease more vehicles. It's cycling customers back to your brand," Hall said.

How do you figure out which is right for you, leasing or buying?

Greg Fidan of RealCarTips.com says that people assume car leasing is a bad financial decision, but that leasing makes sense if you meet the following three criteria:

1. You want a new car in four years or less.



A row of 2013 Ford Fusions are on display at an automobile dealership in Zelienople, Pa. As the economy improves, the percentage of new cars that are leased instead of purchased has grown. (AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

2. You drive 15,000 or fewer miles per year.

3. You have excellent credit.

Most car shoppers don't really understand how a lease works, Fidan said. They assume it's similar to renting, but leasing is simply just another method of

financing a vehicle. During a lease, you pay for the use of a vehicle (the depreciation), plus the interest payment -- called the money factor.

When you lease a vehicle, you're actually doing business with a finance company -- not the dealer. They

purchase the vehicle from the dealer for the price you negotiate, then they lease it to you. Therefore, it's very important to negotiate the price of the vehicle as if you're buying it. That's the number one leasing mistake -- and it can be very costly, Fidan said. □

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Syria meet opens with acrimony, testy exchanges

Continued From Front

"You live in New York, I live in Syria," al-Moallem snapped after Ban asked that he conclude his speech, which lasted more than 30 minutes.

After al-Moallem finished Ban lamented that his injunction that participants take a constructive approach to the crisis "had been broken."

Despite the lack of concrete progress, several Syrians expressed hope that the conference signaled the start of a process in which Syrians might even-

tually overcome their differences.

"It's a historic moment," said Ibrahim al-Hamidi, a veteran journalist for the Saudi-owned Al Hayat newspaper, originally from the northern Syrian city of Idlib. "After three years of military struggle, when the opposition tried very hard to destroy the regime, and the regime tried very hard to crush the opposition, this is the first time the two delegations sit down in one room under U.N. auspices." On the eve of the conference, Kerry, Ban and Sergei V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, engaged

in a calculated display of comity, a gesture that appeared intended to play down the United States' successful lobbying effort to persuade the United Nations to withdraw its invitation to Iran to attend the meeting.

opposition is the major goal of the conference.

"The right to lead a country does not come from torture, nor barrel bombs, nor Scud missiles," Kerry said. "And the only thing standing in its way is the stubborn clinging to power of one

between the U.S. and Russia positions were outlined in civil tones, that diplomatic restraint was abandoned when al-Moallem took the floor and launched into a diatribe in which he accused Arab nations of financing terrorism and con-



A member of movement Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, "Oxfam", puts a white rose on symbolic gravestones, on the opening day of the Geneva II peace talks on Syria, in Montreux, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014. Representatives of Syrian President Bashar Assad, a divided opposition, world powers and regional bodies started the peace conference.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Salvatore Di Nolfi)

"Do we all look happy?" Lavrov quipped as the three held hands for a Tuesday night photo opportunity.

But when the conference opened Wednesday the sharp differences re-emerged. Kerry said it was unthinkable that President Bashar Assad of Syria could play a role in a transitional administration that would govern the country as part of a political settlement. The establishment of such a transitional body by "mutual consent" of the Assad government and the Syrian

man, one family." But Lavrov challenged the U.S. insistence that Assad be excluded from a possible transitional administration, arguing that the conference had to "refrain from any attempt to predetermine the outcome of the process." Lavrov also revived the Russian argument that Iran, Assad's regional ally, should be present, challenging the U.S. position that Iran not be allowed to participate until it publicly endorses the mandate for the conference. While the stark differences

spiring to destroy his country.

"They have used their petrodollars to buy weapons," he said, "and to flood the international media with lies."

Ahmad al-Jarba, the president of the Syrian opposition, opened with the story of Hajar al-Khatib, 11, who he said had been shot by government forces as she rode a bus to school in Rastan, near the central city of Homs, in May 2011, in the early days of the anti-Assad protests that morphed into a civil war. □

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Israel says foils al-Qaida plot on US Embassy

IAN DEITCH

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Wednesday said it had foiled an "advanced" al-Qaida plan to carry out a suicide bombing on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv

agency said it had arrested three Palestinians who allegedly plotted bombings, shootings, kidnappings and other attacks. It said the Palestinian men, two from Jerusalem and one

Israel before, this appeared to mark the first time an attack was directly planned by al-Qaida leaders.

The Shin Bet said the Palestinians planned on attacking a Jerusalem conference center with firearms and then kill rescue workers with a truck bomb. Al-Qaida also planned to send foreign militants to attack the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv on the same day using explosives supplied by the Palestinians, it said.

It said five men whose identity and nationality were not disclosed were to fly into Israel with fake Russian passports to attack the American embassy. It was not clear where the men are located.

The Palestinian operatives had planned on several other attacks, it said. The agency said it the plot was in "advanced planning stages" but gave no further information on how close the men got to carrying it out. It said the Palestinians from Jerusalem had used their Israeli resident cards to scope out and gather intelligence on targets. They were arrested in the past

few weeks, it said.

A number of al-Qaida-inspired groups have carried out rocket attacks from Gaza and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, as well as shootings in the West Bank. Israeli intelligence calls these groups part of a "global jihad" movement.

Aviv Oreg, a former head of the Israeli military intelligence unit that tracks al-Qaida, said the plot marked the first time it has been directly linked to an attempted attack in Israel. "This is the first time that Ayman al-Zawahri was directly involved," he said.



This image from a web posting by al-Qaida's media arm, as-Sahab, provided by IntelCenter, shows al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri. Israel on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, said it had foiled an "advanced" al-Qaida plan to carry out a suicide bombing on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and bomb other targets, in what analysts said was the first time the global terror network's leadership has been directly involved in plotting an attack inside Israel.

(AP Photo/IntelCenter)

and bomb other targets, in what analysts said was the first time the global terror network's leadership has been directly involved in plotting an attack inside Israel.

The Shin Bet intelligence

from the West Bank, were recruited by an operative based in the Gaza Strip who worked for al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri. While a number of groups inspired by al-Qaida have carried out attacks against

Rome:

Police seize eateries linked to Mafia

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian police on Wednesday seized 27 pizzerias, cafes and other eateries in the heart of Rome as well as other businesses elsewhere in a probe highlighting the seemingly legitimate business fronting for organized crime in places beyond the Neapolitan mobsters' base.

The national anti-Mafia prosecutor's office said other confiscated properties included gas stations and parking lots near Naples train stations, allegedly used to launder Camorra syndicate revenue from drug trafficking, extortion and loan-sharking.

The office of Franco Roberti, Italy's national prosecutor in the fight against organized crime, described the operation as the most im-

portant investigation ever into the complex criminal activity of the Camorra's Contini crime family. It estimated at 250 million euros (\$340 million) the total value of all the confiscated businesses, as well as homes, cars, land, bank accounts and other property which authorities suspect were obtained through illicit activity.

Ninety arrest warrants issued, some of them for mobsters already in jail. Roberti's office said Edoardo Contini, who has been jailed since 2007 after years as a fugitive, was a mastermind of the business network for money laundering. His wife was arrested on suspicion of loan-sharking and extortion against a family of clothing merchants in the Naples area, Roberti's office said.

While shaking down Naples businesses in the Camorra's backyard is a generations-old activity, the suspect pizzerias and coffee bars in the historic heart of Rome underscored how the organized crime clans have increasingly penetrated the economic fabric of the capital.

On Wednesday, Carabinieri military police combed through eateries in the heart of Rome, in search of evidence. Pizzerias and ice cream parlors involved are near monuments and squares heavily frequented by tourists and Romans alike, some of them in the vicinity of the Pantheon and Piazza Navona.

Carabinieri Cmdr. Salvatore Luongo said the Contini family had extended its roots to the Rome area in the 1990s.

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European businesses rushing to find Iran bonanza

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — France is sending business executives by the planeload to Iran. German and Dutch entrepreneurs are taking courses on how to close a deal in Tehran, and car makers are drawing up plans for investment. Europe's business community is abuzz with preparations to rush back into Iran, an economic powerhouse in the Middle East, as some sanctions are suspended. And the interest is welcome — Iran is desperate to revive its economy after

More hand-shaking will take place soon thereafter in Tehran, when France's business lobby group flies in executives representing about 100 firms for "exploratory" talks to take advantage of the sanctions' suspension, an official with the organization said. Competitors are doing the same, so firms from the oil and gas sector, carmakers and other manufacturing companies want to move quickly, added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the subject remains sensitive within governments.

The recent, more punitive measures had caused Iran's currency to tumble while unemployment soared and ballooning inflation ate up the people's purchasing power. This week, some sanctions were lifted on the export of petrochemical products, shipping, insurance and the trade of precious metals. The possibilities for growth are obvious judging by how much trade has fallen. Imports by the 28-nation EU, Iran's biggest trading partner, plunged from 16.5 billion euros (\$22 billion) in 2011 to 5.6 billion euros in

that sanctions could go back up when the current deal expires in six months, companies are upbeat. "Optimism is predominating that there has finally been something of a relaxation in political relations and therefore in business possibilities," said Volker Treier, head of trade relations at the Association of German Chambers of Commerce. The association last week held an event on doing business in Iran and executives "filled the room very quickly," Treier said. The sectors represented included machinery, vehicle

been curtailed in recent years," oil company BP said in a statement. "It clearly has a lot of potential." It cautioned, however, that "this is likely to be a very complicated political process." Iran's oil and gas industry is in poor shape since sanctions often made it impossible to upgrade production sites. Iran also needs to modernize its business laws, said Howard Rogers, the director of the Natural Gas Research program at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

Other hurdles include the tight sanctions on financial transactions, which mostly remain in place and make financial transactions difficult.

Considering the big sums involved in oil production, companies will be cautious. While major players such as France's Total, Anglo-Dutch Shell or Italy's Eni are keen to get back in business, they are for now sticking to a wait-and-see approach until the sanctions will be lifted permanently. "My expectation would be a rush of large players if sanctions come down," said Rogers. Coincidentally, Iran's Rouhani and Zarif sat next to the chief executive of Total SA, Christophe de Margerie, at a session in Davos Thursday.

Iran's oil minister is also holding meetings in Turkey this week to seek closer cooperation. As an initial step, Turkey hopes to boost crude imports by about a third.

CARS

The other big opportunity is Iran's auto market, which had been important for European manufacturers before the sanctions hit.

France's PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault, in particular, stand to gain from renewing their once-sizeable Iran activities.

As recently as 2011, Peugeot sold 455,000 cars in Iran, making the country its second-largest market after France. The company is now following the situation with interest, said spokesman Pierre-Olivier Salmon. □



A line of Peugeot 206's are on the production line at the Iranian state-run Iran Khodro automobile manufacturing plant near Tehran, Iran. For many business leaders, Iran is a mouthwatering emerging market, and they could soon find themselves heading to Iran to secure new deals following the suspension of the first international sanctions.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

years of international isolation.

Under a deal with world powers, Tehran has agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for some sanctions relief and the unfreezing of about \$4.2 billion in overseas assets. Iran and world powers now have six months to conclude a permanent deal.

As always, in business, it's about getting in first.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Foreign Minister Javad Zarif arrived Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland's Davos ski resort to meet with the world's business elite, likely to discuss trade opportunities.

"Everyone is in the same state of mind," she said.

THE OPPORTUNITY

For businesses, getting into Iran is a chance not to be missed. The country boasts a well-educated population of about 75 million and some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, much of which is still unexplored due to decades of sanctions since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

European countries have historically strong trade ties with Iran — more so than the U.S., which has had tougher sanctions in place for longer. European sanctions only began in limited form in 2007.

2012 and a mere 395 million euros in the first half of 2013. Exports from the bloc to Iran dwindled from around 11 billion euros to 7.4 billion euros in 2012.

EXECUTIVE INTEREST

Among the first signs that business is ready to resume is the surge in demand for flights. Austrian Airlines last week announced it will resume five weekly flights to Tehran, and its parent company Lufthansa said it's thinking about adding more seats to its daily flights. Turkish Airlines, which serves six Iranian destinations, is seeking permission to increase frequencies. Even though there are fears

production, food, medical technology and pharmaceuticals.

In the Netherlands, the Dutch ambassador to Iran, Jos Douma, last week held what he called a "speed-date session" with companies interested in getting back into business with Iran. One focus was to export spare parts for Iran's aging planes and agricultural products. "They need all kinds of things," he said.

OIL

For foreign firms, the biggest prize in Iran is undoubtedly its sanctions-crippled oil and gas sector.

"Iran clearly has huge resources. Its production has

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France, Goodyear workers negotiate end to standoff

PARIS (AP) — French officials and protesting workers at a Goodyear tire plant in the northern French town of Amiens that's been looking to close reached an agreement on Wednesday that ends a years of standoff. The accord came after 10 days of negotiations among the government, the company and unions. The office of Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said the "end of conflict protocol" puts an end to the occupation of the factory by workers demanding new negotiations over severance packages. So bitter was the standoff that workers took two Goodyear managers hostage earlier this month, and freed them only after police intervened.

The lengthy saga has made the plant an emblem of France's labor tensions. France's minister for industrial renewal, Arnaud Montebourg, said in a statement that the accord opens the way to an offer by U.S.-based Titan International which, the minister said, would guarantee 333 jobs at the site for four years. Where that offer stands remains unclear. Titan CEO Maurice Taylor, known as a tough negotiator, publicly blasted the French work ethic a year ago after visiting the factory north of Paris, drawing piqued responses from Montebourg and other government officials. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said the accord includes language by which



Goodyear's human resources chief, Bernard Glesser, center, and the firm's production manager Michel Dheilly, center right, leave the Goodyear plant in Amiens, northern France. French officials and protesting workers at the plant reached an agreement on Wednesday that ends a yearlong standoff.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

Venezuela overhauls foreign exchange system

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's government is tightening a much-used loophole in rigid currency controls as part of an overhaul of its foreign exchange system to safeguard a dwindling supply of dollars. As part of the changes announced Wednesday by Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez, Venezuelans traveling abroad will no longer be able to purchase air tickets or obtain cash at the official rate of 6.3 bolivars per dollar. Instead, they'll now be required to make purchases at a higher rate established at weekly central bank auctions, where the greenback currently fetches about 11 bolivars. The fluctuating rate also will apply to the limited quantity of money Venezuelans can

abroad to family members and to foreign companies investing in Venezuela. Ramirez, who is also President Nicolas Maduro's top economic adviser, denied that forcing travelers to pay more for dollars signals a stealth devaluation as many economists have argued. He said that more than 80 percent of the nation's dollars will still be sold at the official rate. The central bank's international reserves have fallen to a 10-year low as demand for air tickets and dollars has soared in tandem with galloping 50 percent inflation and the plunge in bolivar's value in the black market. Foreign airlines say they have an equivalent of \$3.3 billion in bolivars tied up in Venezuela by decade-old exchange controls that make it impossible to send earnings abroad. Ramirez said that last year

alone more than \$8 billion leaked from the oil-dependent economy as even some non-Venezuelan travelers purchased hard currency at the "preferential" rate. "The big debate here is whether we give dollars to travelers or we import food," Ramirez told reporters in Caracas. The currency overhaul came as Venezuela's biggest food company warned that it may be forced to idle some assembly lines because of government delays of up to 230 days processing its request for \$463 million needed to pay overseas suppliers. Empresas Polar said in a statement on Wednesday that foreign credit lines have dried up and suppliers abroad are threatening to cut off the shipments of food, packaging and other supplies unless they receive payment soon. □

the parties commit "not to block the arrival of any company that would propose taking over the site." The accord includes improved indemnities for workers who are let go, although the amount was not immediately made public.

Neither Goodyear nor the CGT union leading the protest could be reached by phone. The government took action after Goodyear workers took the plant director and human resources chief captive to demand better severance packages. □

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Thai official is pessimistic about holding an election

THOMAS FULLER

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BANGKOK - Like the anti-government protesters trying to overthrow the Thai government, Somchai Srisutthiyakorn says he is against holding elections next month and does not think they will do anything to bring a resolution to the country's increasingly violent political turmoil.

But Somchai is not a protester - he is 1 of 5 members of the country's Election Commission whose mission, according to Thai law, is to arrange, provide support and promote elections.

"The Election Commission must arrange elections," Somchai said in an interview this week. "But we must be sure the election benefits society."

Somchai said he and the four other commissioners are in agreement: they do not oppose elections but want them held at an unspecified "suitable time."

Somchai's lack of enthu-

siasm for the Feb. 2 elections, which were endorsed by royal decree last month when the government dissolved Parliament, underlines the depth of divisions in Thai society after two months of debilitating protests in Bangkok.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has been under intense pressure over the last two months as anti-government protesters have become increasingly aggressive in their campaign to banish her, scuttle elections and overthrow her government.

But equally challenging for her government has been resistance from inside government agencies.

In addition to the Election Commission's efforts to put off the elections, the Constitutional Court recently ruled against the government in two key cases and the National Anti-Corruption Commission has announced that it is pursuing two large investigations



Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, who is on Thailand's five-member Election Commission, during an interview in Bangkok, Jan. 21, 2014. Somchai said that the five-member Election Commission does not oppose elections but wants them held at an unspecified "suitable time," and not next month, as has been declared by royal decree. (Thomas Fuller/ The New York Times)

against members of the ruling party that could ultimately lead to party members being banned from politics or the party being dissolved.

Government supporters

say Somchai sympathizes with the protests, offering as evidence a photo of him on the Internet posing with two people at one of the protest sites in Bangkok.

To his detractors, Somchai

exemplifies a Bangkok-centric mind-set that discounts the wishes of people in the country's populous northern provinces, who by most accounts are eager to cast their votes next month. □



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Philippines government, Muslim rebels hope to sign pact soon

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group on Wednesday began what they hope will be the final round of talks on ending a decades-long rebellion.

Negotiators from the government and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front said they are guardedly optimistic they can iron out differences on the final issues of rebel disarmament and the extent of minority Muslim control over resource-rich waters in the four-day negotiations that opened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. An agreement on those issues would conclude the yearslong talks and lead to the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement, presidential peace process adviser Teresita Deles said.

The proposed peace pact would grant minority Muslims broader autonomy in the south in exchange for ending more than 40 years of violence that has killed more than 120,000 com-

batants and civilians and held back progress in the resource-rich but poverty-racked region.

Disarming the guerrillas under an accord called "normalization" is among the most delicate stages of the talks and involves convincing rebel commanders to lay down their weapons in a restive region where some have had long-running clan feuds outside of the insurgency. A volatile mix of unlicensed guns, weak law enforcement and the presence of many armed groups has long engendered a gun culture in the region.

Deles said the two sides have discussed the thorny issue since last year and need to thresh out the remaining details, including ways of helping former combatants regain normal lives and establishing independent commissions to oversee the rebel "decommissioning" and the formation of a security force in the broader Muslim autonomous region, to be called Bangsamoro. □



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9 AM – 2 PM > Adult singles.
2 PM – 6 PM > Mixed doubles.
2 PM – 6 PM > Youth doubles tournament, 16 and under.
Sunday January 26:
10 AM – 6 PM > Adult men- & women's doubles tournament. Sign up thru <http://www.beachtennisaruba.com/events/Winner> > 25 pts. 2nd place > 15 pts. 3rd loser > 1/2 finals 7 pts. 5th loser > 1/4 finals 3 pts. Last 16 > 1 pt. Points stay in the Category/Level where they are won. At the end of the year the player(s) with the most points win it and become 'King of the beach' or

'Queen of the beach'. When 2 of more players have the same amount of points the one with the most tournament wins or highest finishes gets it. **F o r m a t :**
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-3 pools > nrs 1 and best 2nd play semi final.
-4 pools > nrs 1 and 2 advance to 1/4 finals.
-5 pools > 5 nrs 1 and 3 best 2nd advance to 1/4 finals.
-6 pools > 6 nrs 1 and 2 best 2nd advance to 1/4 finals. Advance to elimination round:



Local Artist Profile: Spotlight on Anthony Croes



ORANJESTAD - Anthony Croes was born in Aruba 13 April 1961. As a child, Anthony demonstrated a natural interest and love for his native ancestral history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropology and archaeology professionally. For someone with such considerable early talent it is no surprising then that it was only a matter of time

that he seriously considered art also as a career and moved to painting full-time. Since his return to his original passion, he has come a long way in the notoriously hard to crack Aruban art world. After originally focusing on a more traditional style of landscape - the hallmark of the Aruban tradition - his work matured quickly and demonstrated an originality that makes defining his

work within the conventional constraints of such a tradition elusive. As a contemporary artist working within what are still considered traditional aesthetic genres and modes, in particular the Native American and figurative painting and sculptures, His later Native Aruban inspired paintings have an uncanny ability to tread the aesthetic and political fault-line between the



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Veronica
Eid

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Western colonial perspective of the Aruban landscape and the indigenous one. In fact, Anthony's distinguished work is indicative of a more sophisticated re-invigoration of the islands indigenous aspect which is gaining force in contemporary art circles. A feature of Anthony's practice is to work only with collected material, recycling as much as possible. His experimentations involve seeds clay, feather, bones, metal, wood, glass, discarded paints and stones to mention a few. At first glance, the viewer may, at times, recognize the iconography of the masters of both the Aruba and European traditions. Anthony, however, employs these in unique ways in order to create an almost surreal way of looking at what has been seen before. Anthony has combined the technical facility of the grand masters with the surreal touches that

make his work so fresh and interesting. The use of strong colors, particularly luminous red, yellow and ochre under painting are employed to allow the under painting to "break through and capture light". While he continues to draw inspiration from nature and remains fascinated by his past cultures, horizons and cacti trees these are not literal depictions. As his painting is studio-based the end-product significantly departs from any empirical image. In the same way, while his figurative work references to native pottery designs and rock art, Anthony does not see these works as portraits in themselves. Rather they reflect the same mood that is evoked in his landscapes. The result is a more cohesive practice then may be initially apparent. For more information: www.etnianaiva.facebook.com

Wedding anniversary dinner at Fishes & More makes love bloom!



PALM BEACH - Rita and Pieter Boots were spotted at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, where they celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary. The Dutch couple got married on January 20th, 2000; both have been living on Aruba for more than 20 years already and know and love the restaurants at the Arawak Garden across from the Occidental Resort. Asked what they had ordered, Rita said that she took the onion soup and schnitzel, while her husband went for the shrimp croquettes and the surf & turf, a long-time favorite. Rita, who is a teacher of Dutch at Colegio Arubano, and Pieter, who owns a construction company (WIPA) together with a friend loved their evening out. Congratulations, you two, and we wish you many more happy anniversaries!



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Woods starts a new year with same old goals

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods was posing for pictures with a trophy Wednesday at Torrey Pines, and the tournament had not even started.

He has made winning look routine, particularly on this public course along Pacific Bluffs where he has already won eight times as a pro, including a U.S. Open. The trophy Woods received on the eve of his title defense at the Farmers Insurance Open was for being voted PGA Tour player of the year for the 11th time.

Woods doesn't take winning for granted, even if others don't appreciate how difficult it is.

That includes his daughter. Woods told a story of 6-year-old Sam being curious about the Torrey pine on the trophy, which reminded his daughter of the Bonsai tree she had seen in "Karate Kid."

"She thought that's what it was," Woods said. "I said, 'No, they're a little bit bigger than that.' I had to go online and show her the pictures and everything. I had all these trophies lined up and she said, 'You need to get one of those.'"

Woods tried to explain that it wasn't that simple, that he had to play better golf than 155 other guys to earn it.

"She said, 'OK, go do it,'" he said.

And so he did. Woods had an eight-shot lead on the back nine before the



Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the fourth hole during the pro-am at the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, in San Diego.

Associated Press

final round in a fog-delayed tournament was so backed up that it took forever to finish and Woods lost patience.

He won by four shots, and then surprised tournament officials when he wanted to take the trophy home on the plane instead of the tradition of shipping. He did not want to walk in the door as the winner at Torrey Pines without that trophy.

"They put it literally in the middle of the living room," Woods said. "Everybody was dancing around the trophy."

The music cranks back up on Thursday — another dance, his 19th year as a pro.

The tune hasn't changed. Woods conceded there are things he can't do at 38 that he could when he was 24, such as produce the same speed when he rotates through the ball. But he's also stronger and a lot smarter in dissecting a golf course.

"You're still able to be successful, but you do it a different way," Woods said. "You evolve as you age, and I think I've done that so far."

The talk about Woods hasn't changed, either.

Even though the Masters just under three months away, any mention of Woods starts with the majors.

The playoff win at Torrey Pines in the 2008 U.S. Open was the last major he won.

Continued on Page 21

AP source: Players wanted A-Rod out of union

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some Major League Baseball players wanted Alex Rodriguez kicked out of their union after he sued it last

week, but staff lawyers told them expulsion was not allowed. The players spoke on Jan. 13 during a MLB Players Association conference call after Rodriguez sued the union and

the league to overturn an arbitrator's decision suspending him for the 2014 season and postseason. Details were confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the

call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized. The union and Rodriguez spokesman Ron Berkowitz declined comment. All MLB players are

members of the union and pay \$65 daily in dues, or \$11,895 if a player is in the big leagues for a full season.

Continued on Page 22

Jackets win team-record seventh straight

The Associated Press
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — R.J. Umberger scored twice to lead the Columbus Blue Jackets to their franchise-record seventh straight win, a 5-3 victory Tuesday night over the Los Angeles Kings. Nathan Horton scored in his 600th NHL game, Artem Anisimov had a goal and an assist and Ryan Johansen also scored for Columbus, with James Wisniewski picking up two assists. Sergei Bobrovsky moved to 8-0 in his past eight starts with 26 saves.

Jeff Carter, Dwight King and Robyn Regehr had goals for the Kings, who have lost three in a row. Mike Richards had two assists. The Blue Jackets have been surging since getting Horton, who missed the first 40 games after shoulder

surgery, and Bobrovsky, who sat out most of December with a strained groin, back on the ice. They're 8-1-0 with Horton, a big free-agent signing last summer from Boston, in the lineup.

MAPLE LEAFS 5, AVALANCHE 2

DENVER (AP) — Phil Kessel scored twice, James van Riemsdyk had a goal and an assist and Toronto beat Colorado for its sixth straight win.

Nazem Kadri also scored and James Reimer stopped 35 shots for Toronto.

The Maple Leafs are on their longest winning streak in eight years after losing four in a row. Toronto has climbed to fourth in the Eastern Conference standings during its win streak.

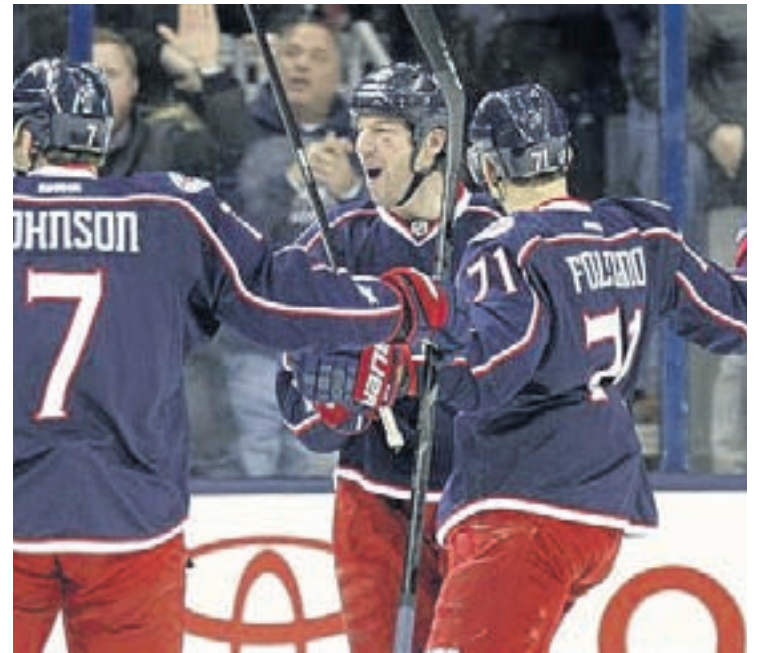
Rookie Nathan MacKin-

non scored two goals for the Avalanche, and Jean-Sebastien Giguere had 19 saves in relief of Semyon Varlamov. Colorado generated more early chances but Toronto scored first. Dion Phaneuf sent a puck from his own end off the backboards and Kessel, who got behind the Avalanche defense, put a soft shot past Varlamov 3:56 into the game.

ISLANDERS 5, RANGERS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Thomas Vanek scored a power-play goal with 4:38 left, and the Islanders rallied from two goals down for a second straight day and beat the Rangers.

Vanek capped the comeback as the Rangers were trying to kill a penalty for too many men on the ice. Colin McDonald and de-



Columbus Blue Jackets' R.J. Umberger, center, celebrates his goal against the Los Angeles Kings with teammates Jack Johnson, left, and Nick Foligno in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Columbus, Ohio, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014.

Associated Press

fenseman Thomas Hickey scored in the second period to get the Islanders even.

Matt Martin scored a rare goal in the first, and Frans Nielsen added an empty-netter. Kevin Poulin made

30 saves in the Islanders' ninth win in their past 11 road games.

John Tavares had three assists and Kyle Okposo added two in front of a nearly full crowd on a snowy night in New York. □

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Federer sends off Murray, next up Nadal

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— For a full two sets and nine games, Roger Federer was the picture of poise, picking up half-volleys with vintage panache and placing winners past Andy Murray.

Then, in the bounce of a ball — or two bounces of the ball, depending on opinion — the 17-time major winner was transformed back into the vulnerable, 2013-edition Federer.

After breaking Murray to get a chance to serve for the match on Wednesday and a spot in the Australian Open semifinals for an 11th consecutive year, Federer dropped serve.

He recovered and jumped to a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker, but then Murray rallied and won six of the last seven points to prolong the quarterfinal.

After wasting a handful of break-point chances in Murray's next service game, which lasted almost 19 minutes, Federer finally wore down the Wimbledon champion 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to set up a semifinal showdown with top-ranked Rafael Nadal.

"For me it was just a mat-



Roger Federer of Switzerland makes a backhand return to Andy Murray of Britain during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014.

Associated Press

ter of staying calm and forgetting about it a little bit because, you know, the match was great until that point," Federer said.

Murray made his resurgence after disputing a point in the ninth game of the third set, when he thought the ball had bounced twice before Federer hit it. Replays shown

in Rod Laver Arena were inconclusive. Federer thought was good, and left the call to the umpire.

"I'm proud of the way I fought," Murray said. "I've come a long way in four months."

Nadal lost the first set and faced set points in the third, getting a reprieve when first-time quarter-

finalist Grigor Dimitrov pushed a forehand just wide in a tiebreaker. Despite painful blisters on his left hand that hampered his serve, Nadal advanced 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-2 of the 22-year-old Bulgarian.

"You lose a little bit the coordination. Yeah, that's a big deal," Nadal said of his grip.

"I served slower. I served bad (but) I was able to win a match against a very difficult opponent, so that has much more value than when everything is great."

"And because of these victories, sometimes happens that next day you are able to play much better — and these victories are more important than the days that you are playing great."

And that's how the greatest of modern day champions reconcile it. On a day when two-time defending Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka lost 6-1, 5-7, 6-0 to No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska and following other stars out of the tournament, Nadal and Federer won back-to-back matches on center court to set up their 33rd showdown.

Stan Wawrinka ended Novak Djokovic's bid for a fourth straight Australian Open title with an upset win in the quarterfinals and will face 2010 Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych in the semifinals on Thursday. Neither of them has won a Grand Slam title, but one is guaranteed to get a chance in Australia.

That match will be preceded by the women's semifinals. Li Na, the 2011 French Open champion and a two-time Australian Open finalist, is the only major winner left the draw. She'll take on 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard. Radwanska will face No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova, who beat No. 11 Simona Halep convincingly.

Nadal and Federer aren't back in action until Friday. It gives Nadal time for his blisters to heal, and Federer time to recover from his tight win over Murray, who came into the Australian Open after spending most of the last three months recovering from a minor back operation.

Nadal, who missed the 2013 Australian Open through injury and had to watch as Murray beat Federer in the semifinals, came back as strong as ever last year. After missing seven months through injury and illness, he won 10 titles — including majors at the French and U.S. Opens — and returned to the No. 1 ranking.

Federer, meanwhile, had his worst year in 11, failing to make any of the Grand Slam finals and dropping to No. 6 in the rankings as he struggled with muscle injuries and came to terms with a new, bigger racket. After recruiting six-time major winner Stefan Edberg as a coach, and adjusting to the new racket, he's finally feeling capable of winning a major again.

He believes the win over Murray demonstrated that. "I definitely think that's what I used to do so well, the transition game from defense to offense," Federer said. "I definitely sensed that today. I am back." □

Serena enters Indian Wells for 1st time since '01

INDIAN WELLS, California

(AP) — Serena Williams has entered the Indian Wells tournament for the first time since vowing in 2001 to never return.

The sisters were scheduled to meet in the semifinals in 2001, but 20 minutes before the match, Venus withdrew and fans booed them. Serena went on to win her second title at Indian Wells, but she and Venus said they would never return. Their father later said he heard racial slurs from the crowd during the final.

When the entries for the BNP Paribas Open from March 3-10 were released

on Wednesday, Venus Williams' name was absent — but her sister was on the list. Tournament director Steve Simon said Wednesday that while it's too soon to know whether Serena Williams will play or not, officials are pleased to see her name on the entry list.

During the Australian Open, Williams said she considered a return to Indian Wells after watching a movie about the late South African President Nelson Mandela, and being inspired by his message of reconciliation.

Also entered on the women's side were No. 2 Victo-



Serena Williams of the U.S. appeals a point as she plays Ana Ivanovic of Serbia during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

ria Azarenka; No. 3 Maria Sharapova; No. 8 Jelena Jankovic; No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki; Ana Ivanovic, who beat Serena Williams in the Australian Open this week; and Daniela Han-

tuchova. Leading the men's entries were defending champion Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Roger Federer and the rest of the top 10 players. □

Coetzee leads Qatar Masters by 1 after 1st round

BERNIE McGUIRE

Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) —

George Coetzee of South Africa needed just 21 putts to shoot an 8-under-par 64 for a one-shot lead on the opening day of the Qatar Masters on Wednesday.

Coetzee eagled the par-5 10th hole and birdied his closing three holes in a round that was just two shots more than his best on the European Tour, a 62 which equalled the Old Course record at St. Andrews in Scotland 15 months ago. "I was quite lucky to get away with a few shots," he said. "There's a lot of luck involved in this game, especially the way I play, and I had 21 putts with a three-putt, so that goes to show." On 7 under were Dawie Van Der Walt, among five South Africans in the top 13, and Steve Webster of England, who began in spectacular manner by holing a 254-yard, 5-wood second shot for



George Coetzee of South Africa hits his tee shot on the 7th hole during the first round of the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters at the Doha Golf Club in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014.

Associated Press

an albatross at his opening hole, the 548-yard, par-5 10th.

There were only two spectators around the green, and one of them was jumping up and down and pointing in a downward motion. "I didn't know whether he was inferring it had gone over the back of the green and onto rocks, but then when I got up there he starts clapping," Webster said. "I've never been 3 under after one

hole before, so it was all a bit strange after that. You start thinking is this my day, or have I had all my luck on the first?" It was the second albatross in three events this year, whereas there was just one on the tour in 2013. Webster, who celebrated his 39th birthday last Friday, picked up five birdies over his next 12 holes to lead on 8 under, then dropped a shot at his 15th. Four players were in fourth place on 6 under, while the

WOODS

Continued from Page 18

He has been stuck on 14 for the past five years, squandering good chances at the U.S. Open in 2012 and the British Open last year. This would seem to shape up as an important year because three of the majors are on courses where he has won — Augusta National, Royal Liverpool and Valhalla. The U.S. Open is at Pinehurst No. 2, where Woods has finished third and second.

"I view it as every year is a big year," Woods said. "Every year that I get a chance to compete and play in tournaments and major championships for as long as I decide to do it ... every year counts. Looking back from the beginning of my career to now, I know that I don't have 20 years in my prime. I don't see being 58 and being in my prime. Most guys don't dunk from the foul line at age 58, so it's a little different. But the outlook is still the same.

"I still prepare the same," he said. "I still work my tail



Tiger Woods, left, 2013 PGA Tour Player of the Year and Jordan Spieth, PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, pose with their trophies during a presentation at a news conference at the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014 in San Diego.

Associated Press

off to be ready to compete at this level and beat everyone that I'm playing against."

Woods and Phil Mickelson are the star attractions, as usual, at Torrey Pines. This was the first PGA Tour event that both watched when they were boys — Mickelson is from San Diego, Woods from about 90 minutes north in Orange County. Mickelson started his year last week in Abu Dhabi where he was run-

ner-up despite a double-hit out of the bushes that led to triple bogey. Mickelson is excited about everything this year — his new driver, his putting, off-course activities and a chance at the career Grand Slam at the U.S. Open. The South Course? That doesn't excite him as much. Mickelson is a three-time winner of this event, but not since Rees Jones began redesigning the South for the U.S. Open. □

former British Open-winning trio of Ernie Els, John Daly and Scotland's Paul Lawrie were among a group at 5 under. Els ended the first round in his 25th anniversary pro career season holing a 35-yard bunker shot on 18 for eagle. "That was a dream finish, that's always going to put a smile on your face," said Els, the 2005 Qatar winner. "I played quite nicely all day but didn't quite get my share

of putts, so that bunker shot at the last really made up for everything." Lawrie also had an eagle, on the 16th, while Daly birdied his first three holes and two of his closing three. "I've started off this year putting really, really well, and just made three bombs to start with today," Daly said. "But I just got into trouble a couple of times with the driver, so it was my putting that kept me in there." □

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MON - FRI 5:00 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL. 3:00 | 5:00 | 7:00 [NR]

VINCE VAUGHN | CHRIS PRATT
DELIVERY MAN
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 [PG-13]
FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL. 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

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FRI 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:35
SAT 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:35
SUN & HOL. 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45

CHRIS PINE | KEVIN COSTNER
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 [PG-13]
FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN & HOL. 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

WILL ARNETT | BRENDAN FRASER
THE NUT JOB
3D VERSION [PG]
MON - FRI 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30
SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:30 | 4:30 | 6:30 | 8:30

LEONARDO DI CAPRIO | JONAH HILL
5 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET
WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES [R]
MON - FRI 4:35 | 8:15
SAT, SUN & HOL. 4:35 | 8:15

ANDREW JACOBS | MOLLY EPHRAIM
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY THE MARKED ONES
MON - THURS 9:40 [R]
FRI - SAT 9:40 | 11:55
SUN & HOL. 9:40

MARK WAHLBERG | TAYLOR KITSCH
LONE SURVIVOR
MON - THURS 9:10 [R]
FRI - SAT 9:10 | 11:45
SUN & HOL. 9:10

KRISTEN BELL | IDINA MENZEL
2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
FROZEN
3D VERSION [PG]
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Yanks, pitcher Tanaka agree to \$155M, 7-year deal

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees and prized Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka agreed to a \$155 million, seven-year contract on Wednesday.

In addition to the deal with Tanaka, the Yankees must pay a \$20 million fee to the Japanese team of the 25-year-old right-hander, the Rakuten Golden Eagles. Tanaka caps an offseason in which the Yankees added catcher Brian McCann and outfielders Jacoby Ellsbury and Carlos Beltran. The four big deals totaled \$438 million.

"We're going to do what we've got to do to win," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We had to make sure we had enough pitching to go together with our new lineup."

Major League Baseball teams had until Friday to reach an agreement with Tanaka, who was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year as the Golden Eagles won the Japan Series.

His agreement calls for \$22 million in each of the first six seasons and \$23 million in



In this March 12, 2013, file photo, Japan's Masahiro Tanaka pitches against the Netherlands in the fifth inning of a World Baseball Classic second round game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

Associated Press

2020, and it allows him to terminate the deal after the 2017 season and become a free agent.

Tanaka receives the highest contract for an international free agent and the fifth largest deal for a pitcher, trailing only those of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw (\$215 million),

Detroit's Justin Verlander (\$180 million), Seattle's Felix Hernandez (\$175 million) and the Yankees' CC Sabathia (\$161 million under his original agreement with

New York). Tanaka replaces the retired Andy Pettitte in the rotation, and joins Sabathia, Hiroki Kuroda and Ivan Nova. His deal pushes the Yankees' payroll for

purposes of the luxury tax over \$203 million. Barring trades, there is little chance New York will get under the \$189 million tax threshold. Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner had been saying for two years that getting under the tax threshold in 2014 was a goal but wouldn't get in the way of fielding a contending team. "There has been criticism of myself and my brother the last couple years that, gee, if our dad was still in charge, we'd be spending this and spending that and doing whatever it takes to win," Hank Steinbrenner said, referring to late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. "He didn't have revenue sharing, at least for most of his time," Hank Steinbrenner added. "That's what these people in the sports media don't seem to get. If it wasn't for revenue sharing, we'd have a payroll of \$300 million a year if we wanted to. So we're doing this despite having to pay all that revenue sharing." □

A-ROD

Continued from Page 18

MLB's labor contract specifies the union is "the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all major league players."

The union will incur costs of defending the lawsuit by the New York Yankees third baseman, who claimed in the suit it "breached its duty of fair representation to Mr. Rodriguez." The union retained two lawyers from a San Francisco firm to defend it, according to a court filing on Tuesday.

When Rodriguez was suspended for 211 games by MLB commissioner Bud Selig in August, the union filed a grievance contending the discipline was without "just cause." The penalty was reduced to 162 games plus the 2014 postseason by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who con-



Alex Rodriguez speaks during a news conference at his gym in Cancun, Mexico, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014.

Associated Press

cluded Rodriguez violated MLB's doping agreement from 2010-12 and twice obstructed MLB's investigation.

Rodriguez will lose \$22.13 million of his \$25 million salary this year; the three-time MVP is owed \$61 million by the Yankees from 2015-17. □

Metal detectors at MLB ballparks by 2015



In this June 11, 2013 file photo, stadium workers use metal detector wands on fans as they arrive for the baseball game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the San Francisco Giants in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Entering a Major League Baseball ballpark will be a bit like going through an airport by 2015.

MLB has told its 30 teams they must implement security screening for fans by then, either with hand-held metal detection or walk-through magnetometers.

"This procedure, which results from MLB's continuing work with the Department of Homeland Security to standardize security practices across the game, will be in addition to bag checks that are now uniform throughout MLB," league spokesman Michael Teevan said on Tuesday. The Seattle Mariners an-

nounced on Tuesday that fans entering Safeco Field will have to walk through metal detectors starting with the opener in April.

Boston, the New York Mets, Oakland, Pittsburgh and San Francisco were among the teams that experimented with screening at times last year. Security gained more intense focus after three people were killed and more than 260 wounded in when two bombs were set off at the Boston Marathon finish line.

"We conducted testing of these measures at the All-Star game and at both World Series venues last year, and we were pleased that it was effective and received without issue from fans," Teevan said.

MLB is being assisted by CEIA USA Ltd., which manufactures walk-through metal detectors, and the security company GSIS. □

NBA Capsules

Durant powers Thunder to top in Northwest

The Associated Press
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 11 of his 46 points in the final 3:23 to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 105-97 on Tuesday night.

Durant has scored at least 30 points for eight consecutive games, the longest such streak of his career. He made 17 of 25 field goals, including 6 of 7 3-pointers. Reggie Jackson added 15 points for Oklahoma City (32-10), which took a one-game lead over Portland in the Northwest Division. Portland had won the previous two meetings this season. LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 16 rebounds and Wesley Matthews added 21 points for Portland (31-11).

HEAT 93, CELTICS 86

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 11 of his 29

points in the fourth quarter, Chris Bosh added 16 and the Heat blew an 18-point lead before rallying to beat the Celtics.

Chris Andersen scored 13 points and made all five of his shots for Miami, which ended the game on a 9-0 run.

Brandon Bass scored 15 points, Kris Humphries had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeff Green had 12 points for the Celtics, who outrebounded Miami 46-33 but shot only 39 percent.

Rajon Rondo, still coming around after returning from knee surgery, missed all eight of his shots, plus missed a pair of free throws with the Celtics down four with 44.4 seconds remaining. Avery Bradley, the Celtics' other starting guard, was lost in the second quarter with a sprained right ankle. NETS 101, MAGIC 90

NEW YORK (AP) — Andray Blatche came off the bench and had a team-high 18 points and reserve forward Mirza Teletovic added 14 points as the Nets beat the Magic for their eighth win in nine games.

One night after routing the crosstown rival New York Knicks, the Nets kept up the surge. Their 8-1 start in January is a NBA best after a disappointing 10-21 start to their second season in Brooklyn.

Joe Johnson and Paul Pierce each had 13 points apiece for the Nets.

KINGS 114, PELICANS 97
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Rudy Gay tied a career high with 41 points, and the Kings cruised to a victory over the Pelicans.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and 11 assists, while DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points, 11 rebounds and



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, left, fouls Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) as he drives to the basket in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014. Oklahoma City won 105-97.

Associated Press

four blocks for the Kings, who've won five of eight. Gay hit 16 of 25 shots, in-

cluding 5 of 8 from 3-point range.

Tyreke Evans scored 17 for New Orleans, which trimmed a 23-point first-half deficit to six shortly before halftime, only to fall behind by 23 again in the third quarter.

TIMBERWOLVES 112, JAZZ 97

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Kevin Love had 19 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to help the Minnesota Timberwolves run past Utah and sweep a home-and-home set with the Jazz.

Ricky Rubio has returned to his spontaneous, free-flowing style and had 11 points and 13 assists for the Wolves, who snapped a seven-game losing streak in Utah.

Corey Brewer scored 19 points and Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin each contributed 18. Each time the Jazz threatened to get close in the fourth quarter, J.J. Barea hit big baskets and had 15 points to keep the Jazz at bay.

Gordon Hayward returned from a five-game absence to lead the Jazz with 27 points, but he was the only starter in double figures.

No timeline for Bryant return to court

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Kobe Bryant is riding a bike. That's about all he can do right now, so he's trying not to think about when he might be able to play again for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant broke a bone in his left knee Dec. 17 at Memphis while playing his fourth game in five nights, likely sidelining the NBA superstar guard for six weeks. The injury against the Grizzlies occurred in his sixth game back after he missed the start of the season while recovering from a torn left Achilles tendon.

The pair of injuries for the 35-year-old Bryant raised questions about whether he would ever return to his previous form. But he said Monday night he had no doubt he would play at a similarly high level again.

"There was before I came back the first time because I didn't know how my Achil-

les was going to respond to playing and changing directions," Bryant said before the Lakers played the Bulls in Chicago. "The game in Memphis I had a pretty good feel for it, getting back to being able to do what I normally could do. I feel confident about it. I did play that second half on a fractured leg and played pretty well. I feel pretty good about my chances."

But the rehab from the knee injury has been slow going so far. The 15-time All-Star said he is limited to mostly bike work right now and any talk of a return is up in the air until he returns to the court. "Try not to think about it too much," he said. "Just go day to day."

Playing without Bryant and Steve Nash, the Lakers had lost 12 of 15 heading into the game at Chicago.

But Los Angeles had won two in a row since a six-



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant watches from the sideline during first-half NBA basketball game action against the Toronto Raptors in Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014. Bryant injured his left knee in December.

Associated Press

game losing streak, with Nick Young and Kendall Marshall helping fuel the mini-recovery.

The Lakers still face a long road back to contention in the loaded Western Conference, especially with their injury issues. Nash is out with a back problem,

and the team also is missing guards Jordan Farmar (torn left hamstring), Steve Blake (torn elbow ligament) and Xavier Henry (right knee bone bruise).

"It just makes it harder," coach Mike D'Antoni said of playing without two of the team's biggest stars.

S&P 500 ekes out another small gain; IBM slumps

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out its second small gain of the week Wednesday as investors pored over the latest earnings reports. Norfolk Southern climbed after the railroad company said its fourth-quarter profit rose 24 percent, better than Wall Street analysts had forecast. TE Connectivity, an electronics company, was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500 after its earnings beat analysts' expectations and the company posted a strong earnings outlook for the second quarter. But there were also some high-profile disappointments. IBM fell after the computing company reported lower-than-expected revenue in the period. AMD slumped after the chipmakers' first-quarter revenue outlook rattled investors.

Companies are still increasing their earnings and are forecast to log record quarterly profits for the period, but much of the improvement in recent years has come from cutting costs. As the economy strengthens, investors are increasingly looking for evidence that companies can increase revenue. "There's not a lot of cost left for companies to squeeze out," said Andy Zimmer-

man, chief investment strategist at DT Investment Partners, an investment advisor. The S&P 500 index rose 1.06 point, or 0.1 percent, to 1,844.86. The index traded within a range of

The computer service company's stock fell \$6.18, or 3.3 percent, to \$182.25. In other trading, the Nasdaq composite climbed 17.24 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,243.

to the year, most investors see no cause to call an end to the stock market's rally just yet. The S&P 500 is down 0.2 percent in 2014 after a gain of almost 30 percent last year.



Trader Jonathan Niles works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out its second small gain of the week Wednesday as investors pored over the latest earnings reports.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

just six points on Wednesday. After a small gain on Tuesday, the index is six points, or 0.3 percent, higher for the week. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 41.10 points, or 0.3 percent, to 16,373.34. Most of the Dow's losses came from IBM's slump.

Among the day's winners, TE Connectivity jumped \$3.70 or 6.6 percent, to \$60 after its earnings report. Norfolk Southern climbed \$4.23, or 4.8 percent, to \$92.94 after the rail company said its fourth-quarter profit rose 24 percent. Despite the lackluster start

"You had a massive run last year," said Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist at BlackRock. "And it's not unreasonable that the market digests those gains." So far, the stock market has failed to get a lift from the company earnings reports that have come out.

GE to buy health care workforce analytics firm

RACHEL ABRAMS
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General Electric announced this week that it had agreed to purchase API Healthcare, a software and analytics firm that helps medical companies manage their workforce. Terms of the deal, which is still subject to regulatory approval, were not disclosed. GE expects the deal to close in the first quarter of 2014, according to announcements on both companies' websites. "Labor costs represent over 50 percent of hospital operating budgets," said Michael Swinford, the president and chief executive

of GE Healthcare Services, in the statement. "With this acquisition, GE Healthcare will be able to address a significant portion of hospital operations costs - assets, patients and labor - with a mix of software, real-time data, powerful analytics and professional services." More than 1,600 hospitals and staffing agencies use API's scheduling, staffing and other human resource technology, according to the announcement. The company provides tools to help hospitals match patients with the right health care worker quickly. "Fifty percent of the hospitals in this country still

schedule their people manually," said J.P. Fingado, API's president and chief executive. "By putting optimization technology in place, you can start to have a massive effect on the quality of care and the cost-savings at a hospital." GE generated 73 percent of its revenue from its industrial operations, which includes power and water, aviation, oil and gas and health care activities. While a significant portion of the company's sales still comes from its financial services unit, the conglomerate has moved away from some of the riskier activities

that got it into the financial crisis. The company reported that net earnings had risen 5 percent to \$4.2 billion last quarter, reflecting a renewed focus on industrial products like oil pumps, jet engines and home appliances. GE's health care unit generated about \$1 billion in profit in the fourth quarter, a 4 percent increase over the same period a year earlier. GE Healthcare helps hospitals improve their operational efficiency and has been looking for ways to expand into the labor side of the healthcare industry.

Nordic steel firms SSAB and Rautaruukki Plan to merge

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish steel company SSAB AB made an offer Wednesday to buy Finnish company Rautaruukki Oyj for 10.2 billion Swedish kronor (\$1.6 billion) to create a combined Nordic producer of high-strength steel.

SSAB said the boards of the two companies have agreed on the merger and the two largest shareholders in SSAB and Rautaruukki support the deal. The offer represents a premium of 20 percent to the average Rautaruukki share price in the last three months.

The new company, based in Stockholm, will have around 17,500 employees and annual steel production of 8.8 million tons from facilities in Sweden, Finland and the U.S.

Shares in SSAB surged by 15.2 percent to 55.85 kronor (\$8.6) on the Stockholm stock exchange after the announcement.

SSAB said the merger would create annual cost synergies of up to 1.4 billion kronor (\$216 million) and that it plans to cut staff by about 5 percent, representing 875 employees, over a period of three years. SSAB's chief executive, Martin Lindqvist, will lead the new company, while the head of Rautaruukki, Sakari Tamminen, will retire.

The acquisition comes as the global steel industry struggles with decreased profitability amid overcapacity, falling steel prices and lower demand. SSAB said the merger creates the "best possible conditions for the two companies to secure a future with long-term profitability in their Europe-based operations."

"In the steel industry, a combination of SSAB and Rautaruukki has for long been considered logical and the time is now right to pursue this transaction," said the chairman of the board of SSAB, Sverker Martin-Lof.

Icahn raises Apple stake, now owns \$3B in stock

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Activist investor Carl Icahn has raised his stake in Apple as he escalates his campaign to pressure the

company into buying back more of its stock while the shares remain stuck far below their peak price.

In a Wednesday post on his Twitter account, Icahn revealed that he has poured

another \$500 million into Apple stock during the past two weeks. He already owned about 4.7 million Apple Inc. shares worth more than \$2.5 billion.

Given the stock's trad-

ing range during the past two weeks, Icahn probably picked up another 800,000 to 1 million shares. That would still leave his total stake in the iPhone and iPad maker below 1 percent. Icahn is urging Apple to spend \$50 billion buying back its own stock during the current fiscal year ending in September.

That target would require Apple's eight-member board to up the ante on a \$60 billion stock buyback program adopted nine months ago. Apple still had \$37 billion available to spend under that program entering October. Regulatory filings indicate Apple spent about \$5 billion of that amount buying back its stock during the first three months of this fiscal year.

The company is expected to provide a specific figure on its stock buybacks Monday when it releases its latest quarterly earnings.

Apple's stock gained \$2.65 to \$551.72 heading into the final hour of trading

Wednesday afternoon. The shares peaked at \$705.07 in September 2012, then sank on concerns about intensifying competition from other mobile device makers and the lack of a breakthrough product since Apple's former CEO Steve Jobs died in 2011. Apple's stock has surged by nearly 20 percent since last August when Icahn announced his initial stake in the company. □



Private equity investor Carl Icahn speaks in New York. Icahn said Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, he has purchased \$500 million worth of Apple stock in the past couple of weeks to bring his total holdings in the company to more than \$3 billion of shares.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Heir apparent at PIMCO to step down

NATHANIEL POPPER

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN

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The giant asset manager PIMCO lost its heir apparent and most prominent spokesman on Tuesday when Mohamed A. El-Erian unexpectedly announced that he was stepping down from the company.

His departure is likely to reverberate throughout the global bond market, where PIMCO, with nearly \$2 trillion in assets, is one of the biggest participants. As co-chief investment officer and chief executive, El-Erian played a major role in the company's investment strategy, which influences the returns earned by the retirement accounts of millions of Americans.

Over the last year, however, PIMCO has hit rough waters as its bond funds have struggled, reflecting rising interest rates and falling bond prices. Last year, investors in the firm's signature Total Return Fund,

which was the largest mutual fund in the world, pulled more than \$40 billion out of the fund.

PIMCO announced on Tuesday that it had "reorganized its leadership structure," leading to El-Erian's departure.

The move was surprising because El-Erian, 55, has been the public face of PIMCO since he rejoined the company in 2007, taking some of the spotlight from the company's famous founder and co-chief investment officer, William H. Gross.

In 2012, Gross said, "Mohamed is my heir apparent." On Tuesday, by contrast, Gross took to Twitter to announce: "I'm ready to go for another 40 years." That would take Gross to his 109th birthday.

A statement from the company said that El-Erian would leave PIMCO in March but keep some leadership roles with PIMCO's parent company, the

German insurer Allianz.

PIMCO said on Tuesday that it was elevating two portfolio managers to become deputy chief investment officers under Gross. Douglas M. Hodge, the chief operating officer, has been named chief executive. A PIMCO spokesman declined to comment beyond the statement.

El-Erian's resignation underscores the upheaval in the investment world as rising interest rates put an end

to a bond bull market that lasted for decades and helped build industry giants like PIMCO and BlackRock. Todd Rosenbluth, a senior director of research and analytics with S&P Capital IQ, noted that "2013 was a very tough year for PIMCO" and said that it could be difficult for co-chief investment officers to continue to work together after such a year. "It is a lot easier to share success than struggles," he said. □

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Caribbean Palm Village Resort

Deeded Property

must sacrifice do to health issues	sale	rent
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2 bedroom 2 bath week 12 odd year	\$3,500	\$1,300
1 bedroom 2 bath week 14 odd year	\$1,800	\$1,100
1 bedroom 2 bath week 17 every year	\$1,500	\$1,100
2 bedroom 2 bath week 26 even year	\$1,750	\$950
1 bedroom 2bath week 43 every year	\$1,500	\$1,100
2 bedroom 2 bath week 44 even year	\$1,800	\$1,100
2 bedroom 2 bath week float every year	\$7,000	\$1,300
call or e-mail don dmlapinson@verizon.net		
USA 856-906-9007 or Aruba 526-2702		

202117



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OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k
GOLD Season
OS \$10k OV \$9500
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B OV \$18k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$11,500
Gold season 2B OV \$9,000
Oceanfront 2B \$14,500
1B Oceanfront \$8,500

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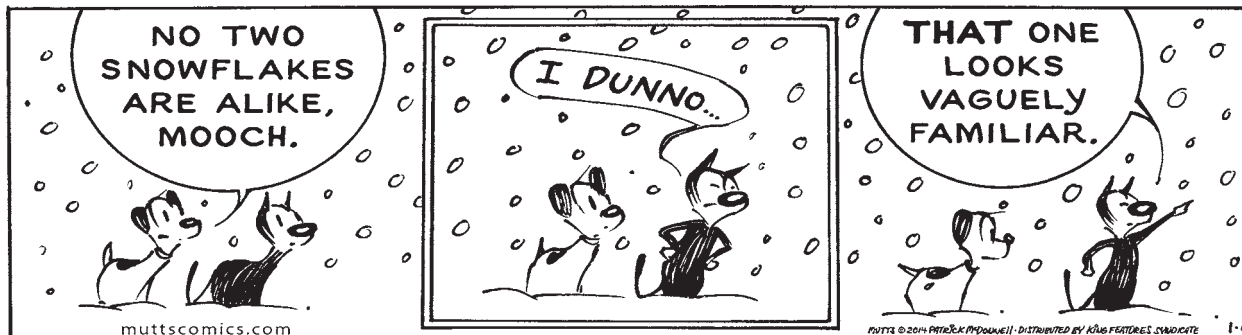
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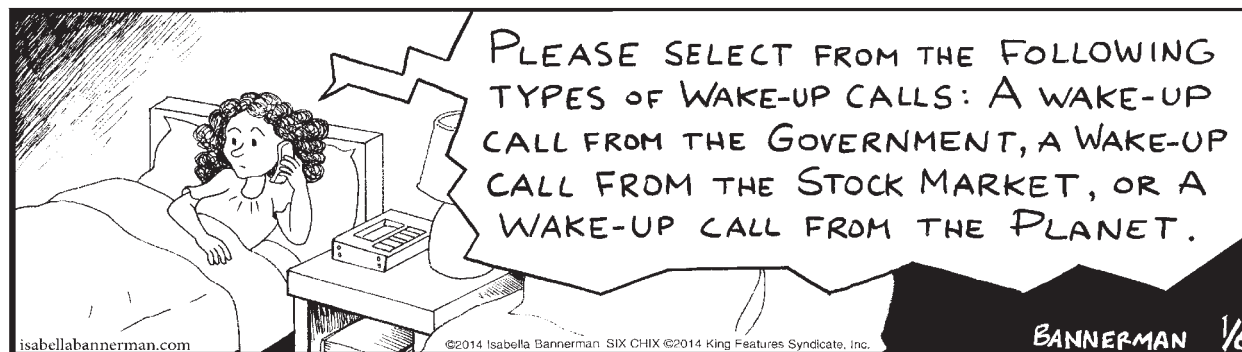
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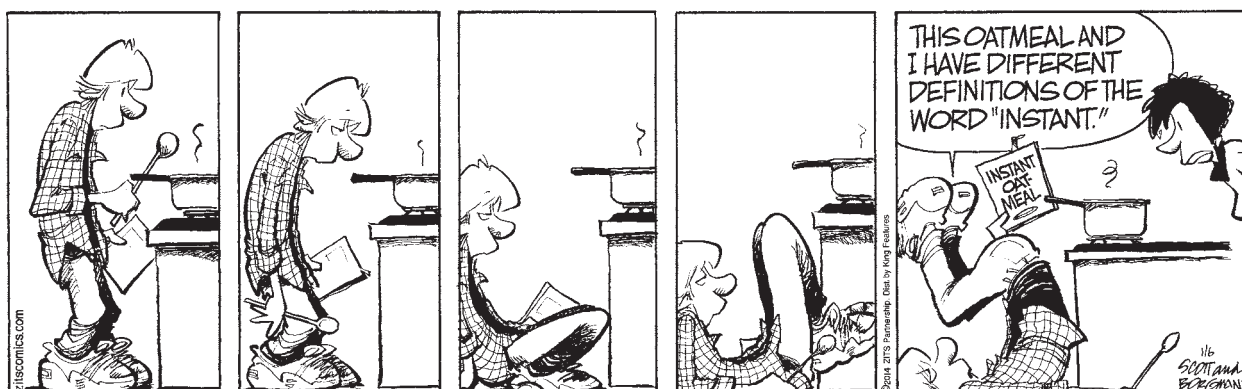
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		1			4	
	2							
1			2	7		3		9
		5		8		4		
3			4		5			7
		9		7		1		
	8		9	3				1
4		6					5	
	1			6		2		

Difficulty Level ★

1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

2	7	9	6	1	8	4	3	5
5	3	1	7	4	9	2	6	8
4	6	8	3	2	5	1	7	9
1	4	6	2	9	3	5	8	7
3	5	2	1	8	7	9	4	6
8	9	7	5	6	4	3	1	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	7	9	3
9	8	3	4	7	2	6	5	1
7	1	5	9	3	6	8	2	4

ACROSS

- Verizon store purchase
- Cancer the ___; Zodiac sign
- Misfortunes
- Rants and ___; carries on
- Tardy
- Dinner, for one
- Chris of tennis
- Length times width
- One of the Three Bears
- Cranky; hard to get along with
- Shiny, as a photo
- Namesakes of Adam's wife
- Straight beaters, in a poker game
- ___ few; elite
- Vote into office
- Rooster's mate
- Striped animal
- Eccentrics
- Dobbin's dinner
- Most terrible
- Ice-skating oval
- Mistaken
- Phys. therapy
- Island garland
- Slepped out
- Diminish
- Fall month
- Uninteresting
- Composer Frédéric ___
- War victim
- Pigeon coop
- Common metal
- Market
- ___-friendly; easy to operate
- ___ does it!"; cry of disgust
- Hayes or Hunt
- Cincinnati team
- Doughnut center
- Cruise ship stops, perhaps

DOWN

- Get ready, for short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
20					21			22	23			
					24			25				
26	27	28					29					
30				31	32			33	34	35	36	
37			38		39			40		41		
42				43	44			45		46		
				47	48			49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/6/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BONE	AFIRE	REST
APEX	BIDEN	EVER
KEEP	UBOAT	VILE
ENDLESS	DEMILLE	
ALE	PERIL	
CLAIM	JAR	SEAMS
HYMN	AIR	REDSEA
IRA	ARBITER	HAL
NESTLE	AID	HELL
ASSET	SHE	FUSSY
RACES	BAD	
STIRRED	MEDDLES	
WADI	SABER	LOGE
AXLE	ATILT	EDGE
BIER	RENTS	DESK

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1/6/14

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 36 Dermatologist's concern | 52 Selected |
| 38 Peeping Toms | 53 Carried |
| 40 Ankle | 54 "Divine Comedy" poet |
| 43 Asian desert | 56 Fuel, for some |
| 45 John or James | 57 Lounge about |
| 48 TV brand | 58 Cedar or fir |
| 50 Schedules | 59 Strong urges |
| 51 Take place | 62 Greek letter |

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

Rm. 1111, Presidential Suite
wks. 1&2 - \$15,000 per wk.
Rm. 1117 Presidential Suite
wks 3&4-\$15,000 wk.
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until 1/31/14
(USA) 203-483-5700
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2021097

FOR SALE

Timeshare For Sale Caribbean Palm Village

Wk 2-3 - 1 Br 2 bath
Pool side 2nd Floor with
elevator
U.S.\$10,000 for both
e-mail: ftwoaruba@aol.com

202115

FOR SALE

Caribbean Palm Village (deeded)

E 107 first floor pool side
(renovated)
week 1 thru 5
1 bedroom 2 bath \$10.000
p/week
e-mail: np7300@roadrunner.com
phone: USA 440-428-4631

202104

FOR RENT OR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas

weeks 1,4,5, one bedr
weeks 8,9,31,32, two bedr
Casa del Mar
week 28 two bedr
All Gorgeous Pool-Beach-Ocean-
Sunset views!
wks can be switched call
:941-343-1088 USA

201068

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shower, dinning area, TV Area
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distance. Tanning patio with
lounge chairs. \$99.00 (sleep
2) \$139.00 (sleep 4),
per night
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202118

FOR SALE

La Cabana

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US\$5,500.00
Call 737-3006
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203123

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(Jan 25 - Feb 1)
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202123

FOR SALE

Divi Phoenix

Week 2, 2bdr, 2 bth
ocean front
US\$22,500.00
Call 737-3006
www.buyarubatimeshares.com
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202123

FOR SALE

La Cabana

Wk 6 & 7, 1Bdr
Pool & Ocean View
US\$6,900.00 each
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itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202123

FOR SALE

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Ocean View
3 Bdr \$35,000.00
2 Bdr \$21,500.00
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202123

RED/WEEK

Resales

Occidental Grand

Studio wk 2/17 \$10K
Jr Suite wk 2/17 \$14K
1 Br dlx Wk 2/17 \$16K
2 Br O. front wk 2/17 \$30K
3 Br O. front Wk 2/17 \$40K

All of the above are non
mandatory all inclusive
optional all inclusive ocean
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

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2x2Br Platinum O.V. \$16K
3X2 Br Garden view \$15K
Marriott Ocean Club
1Br Platinum O.V. \$11,5K
2Br Platinum O.F. \$29K
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Casa del Mar

2Br 2 bath wk 5 Room #2501
O.V. Price \$25K

La Cabana Beach Resort

Studio wk 4 and 5 Room
#241A O.V. \$18K both
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1Br 1 1/2 bath Room # 605
wk 2 O.V. 31 week remain on
the contract \$9000

Divi Links

1Br wk 4 Rm 2360 \$8000
Stu wk 4 Rm 2359 \$7000
Golf and O.V. top floor
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Paradise Beach Villas

1Br 1 wk 2 Room #322 O.V.
Price \$9500
1 Br wk 3 Room # 324 O.V.
Price \$9500
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202119

RED/WEEK Resales

Eagle Beach Front

Amsterdam Manor
all 52 weeks 2 br, 2 bath
Room # 213 \$450K
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28 years experience
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202119

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202110

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201066

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2 Bedroom Condo Unit 3544
Weeks 5,6,7sun-sun
3 Bedroom Condo Unit 3548
Week 8 sun-sun

Mini enhanced rooms

1 bedroom first floor unit 1570
weeks 7 & 8 fri-fri
2 bedroom first floor unit 1566
weeks 5 & 6 fri-fri
1 bedroom 5th floor unit 5562
week 17
Email: cljhn@aol.com
Tel: 297-566-4608

201079

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

wk 2 ocean front
Room 1224...25K
wk 3 ocean, pool view Room
1318...20K
e-mail:lemmesell@aol.com

201071

FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas

For Sale week 2 & 4
Week 2 \$6000 1 bedr
pool/ocean view
Week 4 \$8500 1 bdr
Call Room 207-after January 18
Call 920-788-2750

201098

TIMESHARE FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

wk 3 Room 1511
\$20.000
e-mail:joansmo25@yahoo.com

201072

Timeshare FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

weeks 4 and 5
1508 sunset view
\$24,000 per week
e-mail: jbehlke@verizon.net

202108

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. Algera

EMERGENCIA 911



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HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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CRUISESHIP

Jan. 23

Carnival Breeze

Adventure of the Seas

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Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
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Arubano

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Narcotics Anonymous

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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

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Foundation

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Bloodbank Aruba

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Israel seeks to save ancient sites from earthquake

DANIEL ESTRIN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With Israel situated in one of the world's earthquake-prone areas, officials are taking action to protect the Holy Land's most important ancient treasures so they don't come tumbling down.

After a series of five moderate earthquakes shook the country in October, experts installed a seismic monitoring system at the Tower of David, one of Jerusalem's most important — and most visible — historical sites.

The project is Israel's first attempt to use such technology to determine structural weaknesses in the countless ancient edifices that dot the Holy Land. The efforts, however, have been slowed by authorities' reticence to publically declare sites as vulnerable, as well as the explosive geopolitics surrounding ancient Jewish, Christian and Muslim sites at the heart of the Middle East conflict.

"We have to remember that this is the Holy Land," said Avi Shapira, head of a national steering committee for earthquake preparedness. "We have some responsibility not only to preserve the historical monuments of our personal heritage ... but also for the rest of the world." Most of Israel's historical sites "have not been checked," said Shapira. "We have them on the map, but an engineer still hasn't visited them."

Israel sits along the friction point of the African and Arabian tectonic plates, and is prone to small tremors. The earthquakes in October caused no ma-



In this March 7, 2012 file photo, a couple sits next to the Tower of David on the wall surrounding Jerusalem's old city.
Associated Press

jor damage, but made Israelis jittery. About once a century throughout history, a large earthquake has rattled the region, often damaging key historical sites. The last major quake occurred in 1927.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, was destroyed in an earthquake shortly after it was built in the 8th century and was damaged and repaired multiple times since due to quakes. The 1927 quake, which was over 6 in magnitude, caused hundreds of deaths and damaged Al-Aqsa and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built on the site where Jesus is believed to have been crucified and buried.

Israel has been bracing for another major earthquake for years. But those efforts have focused on retrofitting existing schools and hospitals and apartment buildings, and improving standards in new

construction.

The country is just getting around to surveying its historical sites, and the assessment process has turned out to be sensitive. Government experts have not published any findings on historical sites at risk, and it is unclear which government authority would be compelled to take responsibility for sites should they face earthquake damage.

Political sensitivities have prevented Israeli officials from conducting earthquake-impact assessments on the region's most revered, most ancient, and likely most vulnerable sites, including the gold-capped Dome of the Rock, said an official on Israel's earthquake preparedness steering committee. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

In the past, Israeli involvement in the Old City's ancient buildings has sparked protest from Palestinians who seek sovereignty there in their quest for an independent state. After a centuries-old access ramp to a key holy site was damaged by stormy weather in 2004, Arab and Muslim leaders worldwide protested

Israeli excavation work in preparation for the construction of a new ramp, accusing Israel of impinging on the site with conflicting ownership claims. The site, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, has ignited violence when Muslims have perceived Israel to encroach upon the compound.

Israel's Antiquities Authority, in charge of conserving the country's ancient sites, declined comment on the earthquake assessment efforts.

The only site in the Old City that Israeli officials say is being checked for a possible earthquake risk is the Tower of David, one of Jerusalem's most ubiquitous symbols. The minaret-topped stone tower stands in the corner of an ancient citadel fortress, and six major cracks in the tower have the staff worried if it can withstand an earthquake.

"This is the symbol of the city, the symbol of Jerusalem, for more than 2000 years. So that's why this is a real nightmare for us," said Eilat Lieber, director of the Tower of David museum.

Researchers from the University of Padua in Italy installed sensors throughout

the tower to determine what kind of earthquake-proofing it might need.

Accelerometers along the tower measure small movements caused by wind and traffic, in order to predict how an earthquake would impact the structure. At the very top of the minaret, thin bars affixed to the stones slide like bicycle tire pumps to measure the movement of cracks. Data collected by the equipment will be analyzed to determine any structural flaws in the tower and if needed, to suggest engineering solutions to stabilize the site.

The Tower of David is the first historical site in Jerusalem to be outfitted with the seismic sensors. Israeli experts are considering using the technology at other Israeli historical sites. Experts said the monitoring technology is already in place in the famous Qutab Minar monument in New Delhi, minarets in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and various sites in Italy, including bell towers in Venice, the ancient Verona Arena in Verona, and locations in L'Aquila, following a devastating 2009 earthquake that wreaked havoc on cultural heritage buildings. Initial assessments for the Tower of David are good. Claudio Modena, a University of Padova engineer, said the tower seems to be capable of withstanding an earthquake because its ancient foundations sit on bedrock. Three steel rings that hug the cracked minaret, installed during earlier British rule in the city, have helped save it from collapse, he said.

Orna Cohen, chief conservator of the Tower of David, said that in the event of an earthquake, Jerusalem's most ancient structures of massive stones might actually be the city's most dependable.

"If they still stand after so many earthquakes during the last 2000 years, they must be good structures," Cohen said. □

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'Black Sails' sets sail with a new view of piracy

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To appreciate "Black Sails," it's best to start by tossing overboard certain preconceptions.

This rollicking pirate thriller (premiering Saturday on Starz, 9 p.m. EST) heeds three strict rules: "No parrots, no eye patches, no peg legs," says Jon Steinberg, its creator and executive producer, with a laugh. And now hear series star Toby Stephens describing his character, the notorious pirate Capt. Flint.

"He's not like any pirate I'd ever seen," says Stephens, whose credits include "Die Another Day" and whose mother is "Downton Abbey" grande dame Maggie Smith. "He's not Errol Flynn. He's not Johnny Depp. We're telling a different story!"

The story begins in 1715, during the Golden Age of Piracy, and takes harbor in Nassau, where Eleanor Guthrie presides as a sort of proto-feminist black marketer, turning pirates' plunder into pieces of eight. She, like nearly everyone

onboard "Black Sails," is constantly under siege. Soon the beautiful, salty Eleanor will join forces with Flint to ward off their many predators in a treasure hunt with a truly huge score.

"She's just trying to survive," says Hannah New ("Maleficent"), who plays the vulnerable-but-tough businesswoman in a man's world. "She's very much a human being." (The cast also includes Luke Arnold, Zach McGowan, Toby Schmitz and Hakeem Kae-Kazim, and is produced by Michael Bay of "Transformers" and "Armageddon" fame.)

On "Black Sails," expect no snarling, swashbuckling or chanteys of "yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum," however much rum may be actually quaffed. "This is a world that everyone thinks is so filled with clichés," says Steinberg. "But when you get to the guts of it, you realize you know almost nothing about it."

The series has elements of fantasy ("Treasure Island," in whose pages Capt. Flint appears, served as a key inspiration) plus, of course,



This Oct. 15, 2013 photo shows Toby Stephens, left, and Hannah New, from the new Starz original series, "Black Sails," in New York. The series premieres Saturday, Jan. 25. Associated Press

fresh invention. But "Black Sails" also draws on an historical era when, elsewhere in the world as much as for the lawless pirates, revolution — especially against the British crown — was in the air. "These are people within one lifetime of those people in Boston who, 60 years later, were having the same conversation about 'What are we gon-

na do about England?'" says Steinberg.

"Black Sails" spins a yarn about society's outliers who see the status quo has no place for them, forcing them out onto a watery frontier where, by whatever means, they claim what they need. There is villainy at the heart of what they do, but also, in varying degrees, nobility. They comprise a ruthless subset of the 99 percent, just trying to better their lot. And striking a blow against The Man. "Heroism is at best a matter of interpretation, and at worst possibly meaningless," says Steinberg. "All of these characters are doing what is best for them, and sometimes they end up colliding. But I think none of them thinks of themselves as being evil." In short, much of "Black Sails" feels universal, even contemporary: What's going on, however barbaric, often mirrors current-day business as usual.

No wonder. Steinberg (whose past TV work includes "Human Target" and the apocalyptic cult classic "Jericho") explains, "Almost every show I've ever loved has been about office politics in one respect or another: a mob family ("The Sopranos"), a saloon in North Dakota ("Deadwood") and now this, which is about the politics of working on a pirate

ship, within a big action film of ships and battles and romance."

"Big" is right. "Black Sails" boasts a rich look on a sprawling scale.

The series is produced in Capetown, South Africa.

"We looked all over the world," says Steinberg, "for a place where we would have access to beaches, but also have access to a water tank (home base for the pirate ship). Where labor was good enough to build ships to the quality we needed, but cheap enough to be affordable. And where film crews could work at the feature-film level. Capetown checked all the boxes."

The eight-episode first season wrapped last May, then production began on 10 more episodes in November.

Now the time has come for viewers to set sail. But since the popular image of a pirate remains Jack Sparrow or Capt. Hook, Steinberg cautions audience members that they shouldn't count on getting their "Black Sails" sea legs instantly.

"But I hope that the period of adjustment for the audience will be the good kind," he adds, "and will lead to the realization that there's something far more interesting here than what you came to the show thinking would happen." □

Jimmie Walker still cool with 'Dy-no-mite!'

PASADENA, California

(AP) — Jimmie Walker uttered one of the signature catchphrases of the 1970s, but it took some persuading to get him to do it.

As J.J. Evans on the sitcom "Good Times," Walker shouted, "Dy-no-mite!" on every episode from 1974 to 1979. Walker played the teenage son in a working-class black family living in a Chicago inner-city housing project. Director John Rich came up with the phrase, but both Walker and executive producer Norman Lear were skeptical about it. At a Television Critics Association meeting Tuesday, Walker said he told Rich that without a story line, viewers wouldn't buy him saying the phrase because they weren't that stupid. But Rich told him



This June 26, 2012 file image released by NBC shows Jimmie Walker from the 1970s series "Good Times," on the "Today" show in New York. Associated Press

that they were. Eventually, the phrase caught on and people waited for him to say it. Walker says that expectation never bothered him when he was performing at comedy clubs.

The 66-year-old Walker continues to tour the country with his standup act. He appears in Season 4 of the "Pioneers of Television" series that debuts April 15 on PBS. □

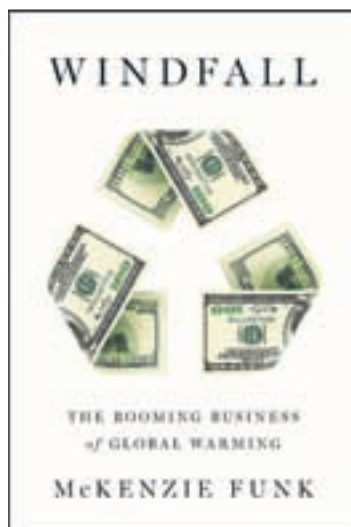
'Windfall' explores the business of climate change

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

Apparently, if you look at climate change the right way, it looks like money instead of disaster — if you're looking at it from a corporate boardroom, for example, and not, say, coastal Bangladesh. Journalist McKenzie Funk spent six years traveling the world to report "Windfall," his account of how governments and corporations — many of whom heavily contribute to the problem of global warming but balk at mandates to cut greenhouse gas emissions — are confronting climate change with engineering, money and lawyers.

Funk has written a fun book humanizing the problems of climate change, focused on the colorful entrepreneurs who see in an increasingly inhospitable world golden opportunities for indoor skiing, firefighters employed by insurance companies, Dutch-made seawalls and floating beaches for South Pacific resorts that otherwise might disappear.

He finds that, for those who can afford to adapt, things will be fine, probably. Then he investigates what will happen



This book cover image released by The Penguin Press shows "Windfall: The Booming Business of Global Warming," by McKenzie Funk. Associated Press

to everyone else — the Bangladeshis stuck on the wrong side of an Indian border fence, the Africans frantically trying to build a wall of trees to keep the Sahara from expanding, the proudly independent island nations told to consider merging since they're all losing land anyway.

Funk doesn't waste time with climate change skeptics — there's enough scientific evidence to back up the environmental effects he describes. Instead, he considers a thornier issue: the true cost of adapting to climate change. □

Sales for Salinger books jump after TV documentary airs

NEW YORK (AP) — The airing of a J.D. Salinger documentary has returned "The Catcher in the Rye" to the top of best-seller lists.

"Catcher" was No. 1 on Amazon.com and No. 20 on Barnes & Noble.com within hours of "Salinger" appearing Tuesday night on PBS stations.

Rankings for other Salinger books also surged. "Nine Stories" was No. 77 on Wednesday morning,

jumping from No. 6,639 the day before. "Franny and Zooey" rose from 6,191 to 172.

The documentary directed by Shane Salerno was released in movie theaters last fall. It alleges that at least five new books by Salinger will be published.

Salinger reportedly wrote steadily over the last 45 years of his life but permitted nothing to be released. He died in 2010 at 91. □



In this April 27, 2004 file photo, author E.L. Doctorow smiles during an interview in his office at New York University. The Prague Writers' Festival opens in Pittsburgh on Friday, Oct. 18, 2013, the first time the event is being held in the United States. E.L. Doctorow, known for works including "Ragtime" and "Billy Bathgate," is slated to read excerpts of his new novel, "Andrew's Brain," at the festival. Associated Press

E.L. Doctorow and the life of the mind

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — E.L. Doctorow has different ways of telling a story.

He sometimes writes because he's asked to — perhaps a commencement address for Brandeis University, a review for The New York Times of a Harriet Beecher Stowe biography or reflections on the U.S. Constitution, as requested by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Doctorow's novels, from "Ragtime" and "Loon Lake" to the new release, "Andrew's Brain," begin more mysteriously.

"I discovered Einstein said the same thing about his celebrated theories of relativity that writers say about their work when he said he didn't have any feelings of personal possession of these ideas. Once they were out there, they came from somewhere else," Doctorow, 83, said during a recent interview at his office in downtown Manhattan, where he is a faculty member at New York University. "And that's exactly the feeling when you write. You don't feel possessive about it. You've discovered something. You

didn't do it, you discovered it, even if it's you that have been writing it."

"Andrew's Brain" is an invention of the mind and about the mind, the follies and revelations of a middle-aged cognitive science professor who mingles with the famous — or so he says — makes a tragedy of his personal life, worries about the world and thinks often about why he thinks. Doctorow began the book with two random images. "The first of a child, a little girl, drawing with her colored pencils, and then an adult sees what she's doing and she takes a pencil and scribbles over what she's been drawing so carefully. I don't know why that particular image impressed me so," Doctorow says. "And then I put it together with a memory I had of a man I worked for many years ago, as a reader for a motion picture company, a decent, wonderful man. He said he had inadvertently murdered his infant child by feeding it the wrong medicine, an infant with an eyedropper. And he had done this, and he was what I would call an inadvertent agent of disaster." Andrew's wife has left

him after the death of their child, and he has fallen in love with a student less than half his age. Structured like a rambling confession, the life of a mind, the narrative shifts between third and first person, past and present, the everyday and the improbable. The difference between nonfiction and fiction is, for Doctorow, the difference between control and surrender. He finds himself following his literary characters, wondering what they'll do or where they'll turn up next. Andrew's travels include a house in suburban New Rochelle (Doctorow's former residency, and the primary setting for "Ragtime"), a Pennsylvania farm where a little girl defaces her drawing and an interlude in Washington, D.C., with a president who very much resembles George W. Bush. The new novel also takes on the ongoing debates about science versus literature and humans versus machines. Doctorow is a partisan, with a point of view he made clear last fall during his acceptance speech at the National Book Awards ceremony, where he was presented an honorary prize. □

Unto The Breach



JOE NOCERA
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On Wednesday last week, a letter landed in my email inbox from Gregg Steinhafel, the chief executive of Target. He wanted me to know that there was a decent likelihood that some of my personal information had been stolen by criminals who had "forced their way into our systems," as Steinhafel put it, and pulled off one of the biggest data breaches in history.

I'm not a regular Target shopper, so I had to think about this for a minute. Then I remembered: In mid-December, while marooned in Houston after missing a connecting flight to Rio de Janeiro, I went to a Target store to buy some clean clothes.

I paid with my debit card, which I swiped through the little "point of sale" machine, and then entered my passcode - something I probably do a dozen times a day. The very ordinariness of the transaction is partly why it hadn't stood out in my memory.

Since receiving Steinhafel's letter, however, I've been brushing up on data breaches, and I'm here to say it is going to be a while before I'm sanguine when I make that little swiping motion with my debit card. In the battle between hackers and retailers, it sure looks as though the hackers are winning.

If you have read anything about the Target data breach, you know that from Nov. 27 to mid-December, hackers siphoned off the credit card information of 40 million Target shoppers, including card numbers, passcodes and the three-digit security code on the back. They also took names and email addresses of tens of millions of other Target customers.

Target acknowledged the breach Dec. 19, but only after a reporter named Brian Krebs had broken the news on his authoritative blog, Krebs on Security.

When I talked to Krebs, he told me that while Target was "hardly a poster boy for how to secure data," the company probably wasn't all that much worse than most other retailers.

Its digital system undoubtedly had all the current anti-virus software, none of which had detected the malicious software - "malware," as it's called - that had infected it. Krebs was pretty convinced that the hackers were

Russians. It was obvious that they were extremely sophisticated in how they went about stealing credit card data.

After burrowing into a Target server, he explained on his blog, the malware would then grab data from Target's point-of-sale terminals all across the country shortly after customers swiped their cards. At that moment, a moment of maximum vulnerability since all the data was unencrypted at that point, the magnetic stripe would yield all the information the hacker needed. Another security expert, Gerhard Eschelbeck, the chief technology officer at Sophos, wrote in a recent report that "one trend that stands out is the growing ability of malware authors to camouflage their attacks." Eschelbeck described modern hacks as "innovative and diverse."

Virtually every security expert I spoke to said it is likely that a lot more retail companies have been breached than has been acknowledged.

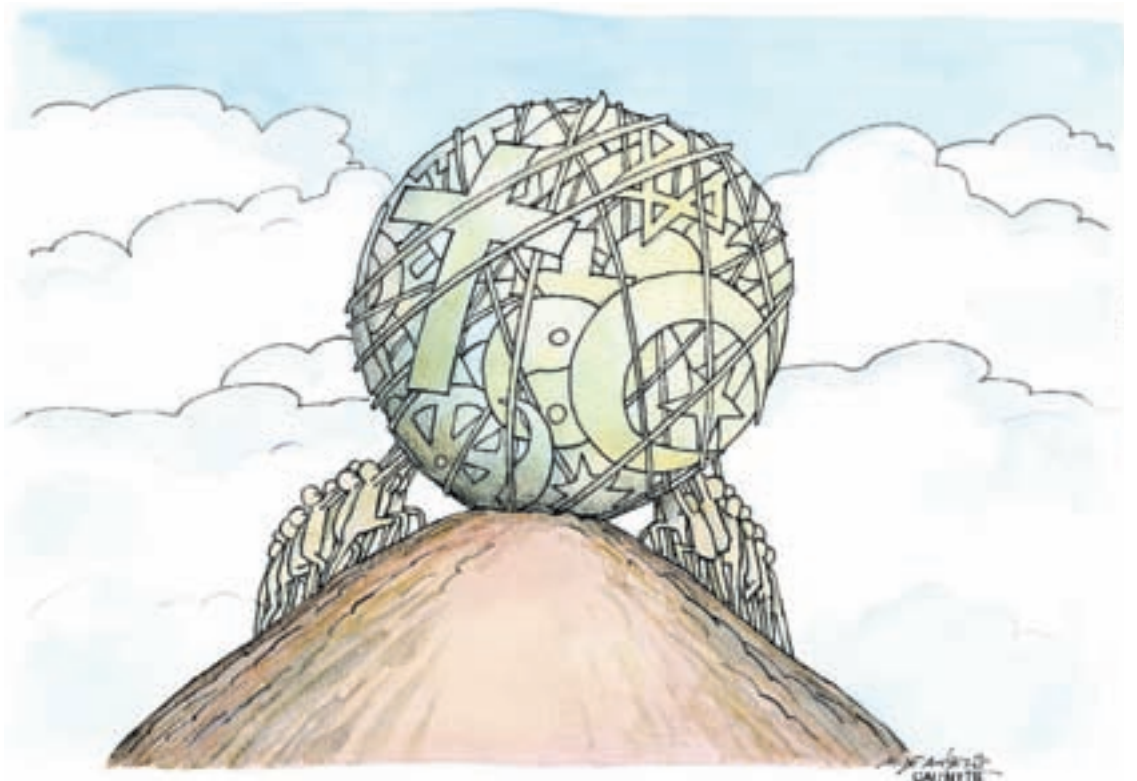
Indeed, last week, Neiman Marcus admitted that its systems had been breached. And just the other day, the Department of Homeland Security sent a report to retailers and banks warning about point-of-sale malware, which it suspects has infected more systems than just Target's. So why don't retailers do more to stop such attacks? Part of the reason is that nobody is forcing them to. It costs a lot of money to completely revamp their systems in ways that would make them harder to breach. However disruptive to customers, there really hadn't been any business consequences, not until the Target breach, anyway. (Target saw its Christmas sales decline after the breach was announced.)

The simplest thing we could do to diminish data breaches would be to move away from magnetic stripes, which are relatively easy to copy, and go to a system in which credit and debit cards are embedded with chips. In widespread use in Europe and elsewhere, such cards are practically nonexistent in the United States (although a rollout is supposed to begin in the fall of 2015). In 2009, a payment company called Heartland suffered a breach that was even larger than Target's. You would think that would have been a wake-up call, but apparently it wasn't. The most galling part of Steinhafel's letter is its advice to consumers. "Never share information with anyone," he writes. "Be wary of emails that ask for money."

None of this advice, of course, would have helped anyone who had the misfortune to shop at Target during the three weeks the malware was doing its devious work.

The fault was not ours, Mr. Steinhafel; it was yours.

As for me, it turns out that the Russian hackers won't be able to use my debit card information after all. I had to get a new card - after I was hacked in Brazil. □



The \$1 Trillion Question



GAIL COLLINS
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I think you should develop a position on the Omnibus Spending Bill.

That's the appropriations thing Congress just passed. You missed it, right? You were focused on the football playoffs or the Oscar nominations. Speaking of the Oscars, did you notice that this year there were people debating whether anybody got stiffed in the Best Song category? Really, if we can know about Best Song, we can have an opinion about the appropriations bill.

Plus, it's \$1.1 trillion. One of the rules of good citizenship is to know how you feel about everything that costs more than a trillion dollars.

The bill is 1,582 pages long, but do not let that dissuade you. In the House debate, one member of the Appropriations Committee assured his colleagues that "contrary to what they may have heard, the bill has not only been read but ... every word and every number has been scrutinized." You will notice that he said it's been read. Not "we all read it."

So, to summarize:

1. The Omnibus Spending Bill is not perfect.

"This bill is not perfect," the House Appropriations chairman, Hal Rogers, said during the debate.

Repeatedly. Other members offered "not a perfect bill," and "there are pros and cons" and "it could have been worse."

While one of the main goals was to protect federal programs from more of the automatic killer cuts they suffered last year, we are still going to be spending less on non-entitlements - education, transportation, health, environmental protection - than we did under George W. Bush.

And about half of the money goes for defense, some of it for weapons programs that even the Pentagon wants to cut. (We are looking at you, extremely sinkable, \$32 billion Littoral Combat Ship.)

Head Start did great in the bill, but funding for the rest of education is sort of ... eh. The National Institutes of Health, which were really whacked over the last couple of years, got a lot of money restored, but not all.

We want more money for research and education and less for Littoral Combat Ships!

2. Compromise ruled.

Here is an example of a good compromise. The Republican right was allowed to continue its crusade against a Bush-era rule on energy-efficient light bulbs. It is hard to exaggerate how strongly some lawmakers feel about this matter. We will now pause to recall Sen. Rand Paul's memorable rant about the evils of energy efficiency laws and how water conservation rules ruined his toilets. ("I've been waiting for 20 years to talk about how bad these toilets are.")

So the Obama administration gets no money to enforce the light bulb rules, which it didn't seem to feel needed enforcing anyway. On the other hand, negotiators beat back an attempt by House Republicans to kill off energy efficiency standards for ceiling fans. This gives us a chance to recall the impassioned words of Rep. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee on the subject. ("First they came for our health care. Then they took away our light bulbs ... now

they are coming after our ceiling fans.")

Here is an example of a less-good compromise. Republicans give up the idea of killing off the Dodd-Frank reforms of the securities industry. Democrats give up the idea of giving the administration enough money to enforce them properly.

3. Tea Party loses.

By passing this spending bill, Congress averted a government shutdown. Did you even know there was one coming? We've gotten so used to this stuff it's like the monthly office fire drill.

But many people in the far right were furious. It was a total defeat for the Tea Party's my-way-or-the-highway approach to politics. "No one wants to shut the government down. My goodness, neither side wants to do that," Republican Richard Shelby of Alabama said during the Senate debate. "It is no good and the American people don't want it."

Well, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas did. But he compromised and settled for giving a speech against Obamacare and then going away.

4. Women rule.

So what do you think? I'd go for good news. No shutdown, a boost for preschool and cancer research. Congress is doing better than it's done since - since we started to really, really hate Congress.

In the Senate, the two major money committees, Appropriations and Budget, are now led by women: Barbara Mikulski and Patty Murray. This is not true in the House, where, as I have noted before, the only committee led by a woman is the one in charge of housekeeping.

Anyway, this is the first time in three years that Congress has actually managed to pass both budget and appropriations bills. Maybe women are just better at getting along. Or maybe the secret is that Mikulski is a former social worker and Murray used to teach preschool. □

Lee and Morty Kaufman: Cleaning Up in Their 90s

STEVEN KURUTZ

© 2014 New York Times

VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. - "I was retired for 30 years, until at the age of 90 I got swept up in this commercial bit," Morty Kaufman said.

He was referring to the popular TV spots for Swiffer, the maker of household cleaning products, which he stars in with his wife, Lee. In a series of unscripted 30-second ads, the couple discuss their blissful 44-year union and their division of household labor (Lee does the cleaning; Morty the napping), and marvel at the Swiffer Sweeper and other supplies that have been left on their doorstep. In one spot, Morty addresses the camera, saying: "There's only two of us. How much dirt can we manufacture?" He and his wife answer in unison - "Very little" and "More than you think" - in a perfect encapsulation of the male-female cleaning divide that has no doubt existed since before the invention of the broom.

After the commercials began airing six months ago, the Kaufmans became Lee and Morty, TV personalities. The couple, whose names and alternating one-liners have the ring of a Catskills comedy duo, have appeared on the "Today" show and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"; have been interviewed by the local PIX 11 weatherman Mr. G ("A hell of a nice guy," Morty said); and were recently honored by the Senior Pops Orchestra of Long Island.

Last week, they greeted a reporter on the set where the commercials were filmed: their tidy one-story ranch house on suburban Long Island. "I bought it 62 years ago," Morty said from his favorite leather recliner in the living room. "It was new. I paid \$15,000 for the house and another \$1,000 for the garage." He had dressed for the interview in gray pants, a white shirt and a tie. Lee wore a sparkly purple ensemble and sat perched near her husband on a floral upholstered couch. Their daughter, Myra Allen, 62, whose friendship with a casting director led to the couple's unlikely late-life career as pitchmen, looked on affectionately.

The commercials were filmed over two days last

winter. "Two days of work," Morty said, shaking his head. "After that, it was all residuals and personal appearances." He remains mystified by their popularity.

"I look at commercials very casually," he said. "It's very hard to let it sink in that people are interested. My reaction was, 'Why?'"

For her part, Lee found it strange to be recognized when she and her husband would go to Woodro Kosh

he helps supervise a seniors learning program. And Lee said she is active in the alumni association of Hunter College, her alma mater.

"Make no mistake, we are goers and doers," she said. "We are not stay-at-homes. We see a lot of opera in Manhattan."

Morty pointed out that they have slowed down in recent years, and Lee agreed.

"We used to do a lot more, that's very true," she said.

Morty explained that he owned a pharmacy in Brooklyn he had taken over from his father. It was open seven days a week, often late.

Lee said: "He was a man with four children, a store in Brooklyn and rotten hours. That was how we started."

These days, they are asked as often about their relationship as they are about the Swiffer ads. People see them as oracles who hold the secret to a happy marriage.

dier, too.

She was always the house cleaner, she said, "Especially when the children were younger, tracking in dirt, the back door, the front door - all the kinds of things that go on in a household."

She added: "I like to live clean. I guess that's really the bottom line."

Morty sounded philosophical about dust balls: "I can accept dirt."

He handles the laundry, as



Lee and Morty Kaufman at their home, bought 62 years ago for \$15,000, in Valley Stream, N.Y., Jan. 17, 2014. The couple's entertaining banter and interaction in a series of unscripted TV ads for Swiffer cleaning products has made the spots popular, and turned them into unlikely celebrities.
(Robert Wright/The New York Times)

deli and other local spots.

"I didn't understand why people would be looking at me, I really didn't," she said. "I looked down. I thought my pants fell off." The ads' success lies less with the magic of the Swiffer WetJet than with the Kaufmans, who project an appealing picture of marriage and old age. They are both 91 and still in their home, and they appear loving and physically spry on camera (to demonstrate her chandelier-dusting method, Lee scales a dining chair).

"Well, on the TV we look viable," said Morty, who has twice battled cancer. "They're not going to show me hobbling around."

Nevertheless, he drives two days a week to Nassau Community College, where

Though the couple come across as lifelong companions, they married in their 40s, after their previous spouses died and left them with children. He had four; she was raising a son and daughter and was the reading teacher for his youngest son, Scott. They met at a school parent-teacher conference, Morty said.

"The second time I went I said: 'I didn't come to discuss Scotty. Would you care to go out with me?'" he recalled. "From there it blossomed. We fit like gloves."

Lee smiled at hearing the lines again.

"It's exactly how he said. He remembers every word." Of their courtship, she added, "We had very strange date hours."

Allen, who is Lee's daughter (although the couple doesn't differentiate between his and her children), said she has observed the way they readily compromise. "Each one at any given moment is willing to let the other one take the day," she said. "I don't think anyone has a vested interest in standing their ground."

Lee noted they were both the youngest children in large families.

"That teaches you how to get along," she said.

Much of their time is spent in his-and-hers dens. Morty's is wood-paneled and crowded with a large collection of VHS tapes, while Lee's has jazzy wallpaper and lots of light and family photos on the walls. It's noticeably ti-

Lee finds the washing machine with its many buttons confusing. For the deep cleaning, what she calls the "soap-and-water work," the couple hires a cleaning person who comes every two weeks. Theirs is now a Swiffer household, of course.

Are there plans to appear in more commercials in the future?

"Well, we're waiting," Morty said.

Lee said she would be happy either way. "I have nothing to complain about. We've had our day in the sun."

He agreed. "How much more can we ask for? We're overwhelmed by the nicety of it."

She summed it up. "What an experience to come to you at this age." □